

CHAPTER 5 IDEAS FOR SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENTS

Digital Stories

The Big Idea

What

Digital storytelling can be used to increase personal connections at the beginning of online courses.

FIGURE X.X.1 ABOUT HERE {Caption: Patrick's Story}

Why

Seeing and hearing each others' story affords associations and provides a foundation for deeper social interactions.

Use It!

How

Digital stories are 1st person narratives told using digital media. The Center for Digital Storytelling (www.storycenter.org) pioneered the concept over 10 years ago. However, it has only been in the past few years that educators have begun to use them as a pedagogical tool.

Lowenthal created his own digital story and has learners create them in courses he teaches. He is especially interested in how they impact teacher presence and isolation, which can be major problems in asynchronous online courses. Lowenthal recommends Adobe Premier or Premier Elements, Microsoft Photo Story or PowerPoint, Macromedia Flash, Apple iMovie or iPhoto, or Windows MovieMaker as tools for building digital stories.

Adopt or Adapt

Digital stories use emerging technology to bring sharing, case studies, best practices, and challenges to a new level. They can also be used as reflective tools, allowing learners to show and tell what they have learned and how the learning impacts them.

Attribution

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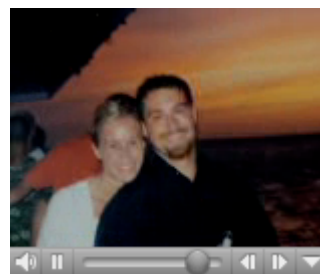
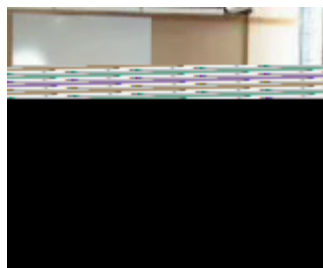


FIGURE X.X.1 Patrick's Story