

Digital Storytelling Workshop

Have you ever told a story? Have you ever listened to a story?

Have you ever walked away from a story knowing that it only scratched the surface?

StoryCenter in Berkeley, California describes the script of a digital story as
"something between poetry and a letter to a close friend."

We don't need to go deeper with every story, but with some special stories that have shaped our world or that have shaped us into who we are (or who we aren't) diving deep is a rewarding process.

Sharing some of our stories in a profound way can help us to grow a little more and understand who we are and how we relate to our world.

Often at the end of a digital storytelling workshop we find ourselves with a beautiful piece of digital artwork constructed with our artistic instincts, intellect and emotions. For most digital storytellers their final project holds important moments of discovery.

Digital storytelling is practiced in many ways using different techniques. We are going to focus in on a methodology developed by collaborators at the Berkeley StoryCenter, and fine-tuned for this context working with Nicaraguan youth and workshop participants like yourselves.

We are really happy you will be participating in a Digital Storytelling workshop with us! Please review this VERY IMPORTANT checklist of pre-workshop preparation:

1. Begin to formulate ideas for your digital story by reading our Seven Elements of Digital Storytelling outline and the writing prompts below. Then learn more about each element by browsing chapter two of the [Digital Storytelling Cookbook](#)
2. No later than **Tuesday evening** create a draft of the script that you intend to use for your Podcast. Your final script must be between 250 and 350 words, but this draft may be up to 500 words. Know that you alone decide whether and how your story will be shared beyond this workshop space.
3. Based on Digital Storytelling (DS) Elements 4 and 6 (from the Storytelling Cookbook but also listed below), gather digital files of the images you will use for your digital story. Typically, you will need between 10 and 30 different images. Remember to incorporate both direct and metaphorical images. You may also bring short video clips if you wish.
4. Bring your draft to Day 1 of the workshop on Wednesday afternoon.

Resources: Digital Storytelling Cookbook, Joe Lambert (www.StoryCenter.org)

Handbook for Digital storytelling, Joe Lambert

Podcasts for Peace Curriculum, James Reynolds, Josue Reyes, Alison McCullough

Writing prompts to reflect on your experiences in Nicaragua

1. *Something you witnessed or participated in that you will never forget*
2. *The moment you realized you were wrong or had much more to learn*
3. *A time you stood up for something or someone, or wish you had*

Seven Elements of a Digital Story

1- Owning Your Insights "valorar tus ideas"

- a. **Example 1: La Encrucijada:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PIK9ZPvwhg>
- b. **Example 2: Progression:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOsMn22xroo>
- c. You are unique and there is no one else like you.
 - i. What story do you want to tell?
 - ii. What do you think your story means?
 - iii. Why this story?
- d. You are the best and only fully qualified person to share your story.
(just be yourself, don't focus on becoming a storyteller)
- e. Write like you speak. Formal written language usually takes away from how "real," and therefore how trustworthy, your story comes across.

2- Owning Your Emotions "respetar tus emociones"

- a. **Example: Dear Grandma**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAVe4Bob3Ys&list=PL6CCE8123E8EB7BA9>
- b. A storyteller creates a connection with their audience through their willingness to reveal a little more of themselves. By owning your emotions, you can open a channel between yourself and the world.
- c. Recognize the diversity and complexity of emotions--complementary, contradictory.
- d. Begin to identify how to express your emotions without saying "I was sad, I was happy, I was excited, etc..." Show how your joy wrote itself on your skin... Show how your sadness stifled you.
- e. Don't hide your emotions, but also don't blow them out of proportion.

3- Finding the Moment "hallar el momento clave" example There's Light in Darkness

- i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=896DwXk9Ajk>
- b. Small and concrete...a significant word, event or moment in which you realize something BIG.
- c. Where does your story change direction/tone?
- d. What path leads you to the moment of change?

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4- Seeing Your Story "el hilo visual"

a. Example: The Gift of Nonviolence

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_aZtlsoziU

- b. What does it mean to be intentional with your imagery?
- c. Direct/Explicit and Indirect/Metaphoric
- d. Composition, Cropping
- e. More images = faster pace. Fewer = slower. Be intentional with pacing.
- f. Does your image: *support, contradict or provide another layer of* information in your narrative?
- g. Use of words as images

5- Hearing Your Story "el hilo del audio"

- a. Your Natural Voice (don't exaggerate or minimize)
- b. Speak more slowly than usual. Every word counts.
- c. Other Sounds
- d. Music

6- Assembling Your Story "la trenza audio-visual"

a. Example: Participant Observation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zo8xrY0XtT4&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PL6CCE8123E8EB7BA9>

- b. Audio-visual unity
 - i. Your Narration creates one rhythm and your images will create another rhythm. One key in digital story is complementing your audio narration with the right visual elements. (EXERCISE: Story Boarding)
- c. The structure of your story is important.
 - i. Where do you reveal the key moment?
 - ii. Where do you begin? Does it serve the story to be chronological?

7- Sharing Your Story "el publico"

- a. Who is your audience?
- b. What is your purpose for sharing?
- c. Some techniques help prepare the audience for a story, introductions with text can help to communicate information that is important but does not fit into your story.

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