



# DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROCESS

This document will guide students through the Digital Storytelling process.

Definition: *Digital Storytelling is the use of computer-based tools to create an edited video that tells a story. Digital stories are used when a person's voice and experience are just as important as the focus of the story.*

## Script your story

1. View [example digital stories](#). Then, read the course assignment rubric to gauge the desired outcomes of the video. Write a script of between 200-400 words; it should include narrative elements such as: dialogue, sensory details, tension, specific details and makes a point. Show do not tell - meaning help your audience be in the moment with you. Avoid writing it as if it were an essay. Language can be informal and bilingual. Consider text on screen for translation. Revise.

## Get feedback

2. Request feedback from a tutor, a friend, and/or a teacher to be sure the script is clear to a larger audience.

## Record your story

3. Record the script in a quiet room. Use "Voice Memos" or "Voice Recorder" which is pre-installed on nearly all cellphones to record yourself reading the script. Email this sound recording to yourself for later access.

Pro Tip: Project your voice, speak slowly and annunciate.

## Visualize your story

4. Create or collect visuals (videos & pictures) and sound effects. Use videos and pictures that substantially add meaning to your text. Additionally, consider playing a sound clip or soundtrack to set the tone. Be sure the sound is at an appealing volume level, is copyright-free, and adds substantially to the tone.

If you use content that you did not make, use copyright-free videos, images and sounds to avoid legal issues. Some sources of copyright free websites and apps can be found in our document library.



Pro Tip: Making or taking your own visuals and collecting your own field recording for sound effects tend to offer a finished product that feels more authentically yours and is much simpler to cite.

## Cite your story

Alternatively, as you search and find usable digital material, copy the website and creator's name for your reference page. MLA or APA citation is required for student created and externally sourced content. Search MLA or APA Works Cited: Electronic Sources (Web Publications) for formatting information. Include all externally sourced content in your Works Cited page, except clips used from WeVideo.

Once your citations are polished, you have two options for putting citations at the end of your video:

- A. Copy your citations and paste into a text box at the end of your video. Adjust the text size, color, font, and position to make it easy to read. If you have too many citations for one screen, make as many text boxes as you need and adjust the duration of each clip to your liking.
- B. Use the Snipping Tool or screenshot your Works Cited page. Upload this JPEG to the end of your video.

## Edit your story

5. Use a video editor such as WeVideo.com to upload your narration, photos and videos. Register for WeVideo by visiting [ccd.edu/dst](http://ccd.edu/dst) and follow the instructions listed. This will provide premium access to WeVideo (you'll get longer export times, no watermark and more editing options). Then, synchronize your narration with your visuals. To export and receive a link, click "Finish" in the toolbar and wait for it to process.

Remember, this is a multi-layered product. Take meaningful risks to optimally use text, visuals and sounds to engage the audience.

Optional: Students have an opportunity to receive scholarship money by submitting to the Digital Storytelling Biannual Scholarship (held during the Fall and Spring terms) or to the Digital Story Fest, held during May of every year. Digital Story Fest-accepted videos will be announced post committee decision. The deadline for submissions can be found at [ccd.edu/dst](http://ccd.edu/dst).