

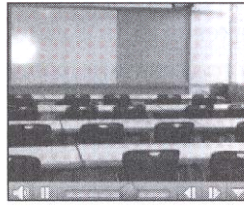
Digital Stories

The Big Idea

What

Digital storytelling—using digital media such as video and audio to tell a story—can be used to increase personal connections at the beginning of online courses.

Figure 4.12. Scenes from Patrick Lowenthal's Digital Story



Source: Patrick Lowenthal, <http://www.patricklowenthal.com>

Why

Seeing and hearing learners' stories affords associations and provides a foundation for deeper social interactions.

Use It!

How

Digital stories are first-person narratives told using digital media. The Center for Digital Storytelling (www.storycenter.org) pioneered the concept more than ten years ago. However, it has only been in the past few years that educators have begun to use such stories as a pedagogical tool.

Patrick Lowenthal created his own digital story and has learners create them in courses he teaches. He is especially interested in the impact these stories have on 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, 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 the impact that learning has had.

Attribution

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