

# Digital Story Telling User guide

In this user guide we give you an idea how to approach this project...

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## How to Find your Perfect Story

How did we find the perfect story for this project? We know a lot of people at first had some troubles finding a good story. We would recommend to you that you should take your time in choosing the right story for the digital story telling. We personally think it helped a lot to turn inward yourself and think about the past, and if something comes to your mind just write it down and in the end you can choose between the ideas you've written down. Keep in mind that you should talk for about two to three minutes. That's why we would recommend to make a short sketch about each story so you know if you have enough to talk about. To sum it up, pick the story you like the most and you feel comfortable to talk about in public.

A very important aspect in this project, little is more. You should come up with a story which isn't a big deal the story doesn't have to have a lot of action, the story you want to share with people should be meaningful to you, it's not important if it's meaningful to others!

## How to Find Perfect Pictures

Pictures are a big and important part of your digital stories. They make your stories look more realistic and also more entertaining. You should think definitely about what pictures to take. The most important part is that you stir up emotions and really drag the reader into the story. If possible, take pictures of yourself so the reader sees what you have achieved, been through or whatever your story is about. If you don't have any pictures appropriate to your topic take some now. Otherwise, take pictures of the internet but avoid breaching copyright. Pixabay is

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a very good website if you don't want any copyright issues so definitely make sure it out if you don't have any possible chance of taking your own pictures. Make sure that that you take pictures where you can see progress. Let's say you planted a tree with your grandparents and you had many great experiences there, like you build a tree house, or had an unforgettable picnic with your friends or family there then take all these great memories you had and put them into your digital stories. Or maybe you had a bad injury and it took you very long to recover, then you could take some pictures of your recovery. In my case, I lost a lot of weight so I took pictures of my progress. What I'm trying to say is that the writing is the base of your digital stories and the right pictures can make your stories very good.

## Why this project differs from regular school work

First of all, it is a lot more personal and something that many students enjoy spending time with. It also goes far beyond the typical school work, which is often forgotten in the second it's handed and not given much thought at all. Students often refer to it as work that nobody (except the teacher) will ever care about and use- and meaningless stuff.

By focusing on smaller details and by trying to make a small story which actually happened big, there are numerous stages one has to go through. How much time you spend on each of this stages can be chosen individually, some find the brainstorming the most important, others prefer spending time choosing what pictures fit in best or take less time for that and focus on the recording and editing.

For us, it was very interesting and special because we knew that this was a chance to send a message, tell a story or simply share a moment with others, instead of keeping it to ourselves as we'd normally do. We tried even harder than usual because we didn't want to have to feel embarrassed when others tell us they watched our video but also because we wanted to produce something useful and something we can be proud of.

In our opinion, learning by doing something that we like is underrated, simply because one is more likely to remember but also especially at this age boys and girls often start to lose interest in school work. Here's what we loved about this very project not only thinking about it, or giving it small thoughts all the time, speaking loud and clearly while recording and then editing it but also the memories that came to my mind while producing it.

After spending a year in Toronto, Canada and attending 9th grade there, we are convinced that this is something we don't have enough of here in Austria. Also, the brainstorming and the online work is something we have always enjoyed doing.

There are many more reasons for why this project differs from regular school work in a positive and unique way, but the ones I listed above are the ones that were the most relevant to me and I hope that I could give you an idea of why it differs from regular school work.

## About the programs we used

We started off by recording my voice on the windows program Audacity, which we have to say worked really well and was simple to use. With this program, you can record your voice and then afterwards edit it, by cutting out certain parts. A nice thing while editing it is that you see where you spoke loud and where you didn't by stripes in different heights. For that reason, you are able to cut out certain parts without making a great effort.

The only thing which you should keep in mind is not to save the file but to export the track into a .mp4 or .wav, otherwise you won't be able to open and listen to it.

After we did this, we used Shotcut in order to link the sound we have recorded before and the pictures together. I have to say, I didn't make any good experiences with Shotcut, the program crashed every 10 minutes, beside that it was very complicated to use and sometimes it just deleted the whole file. For example, we were about to save the file when it deleted itself. All in all I would recommend you to use another program which is simpler to use, like Knovio, which may not be as professional, but works. If you've got an Apple computer or laptop I would recommend you to use iMovie, which is very professional but simple to use, and it's neither crashing nor deleting it's files. Another advantage of Shotcut, of both programs, is that you can record your voice directly in the program, so you don't have to use another separate program, which makes the whole project simpler and faster.