

TECHNOLOGY

• ACROSS THE BOARD •

What's That?

Digital Storytelling

Digital storytelling is a type of composition in which the student tells a first-person narrative in his or her own voice using sound, oral language, music and visuals. One of the most powerful ways in which schools are beginning to use multimodal learning is in digital storytelling. When engaging students in digital storytelling, teachers need to ensure that students not only are motivated and interested by the use of media, but also meet literacy standards.

Why use digital storytelling in the classroom? Because students need to be prepared not only to interpret and analyze multimodal media (which combines text, sound and visuals), but also to compose and produce communication using such media. Consider these resources:

The Center for Digital Storytelling (www.storycenter.org) is an international not-for-profit community arts organization that assists youth and adults around the world in using media tools to share, record and value stories from their lives, in ways that promote artistic expression, health and well-being, and justice. The Center's Web site features links to many resources, articles and examples of digital storytelling.

Radiowaves (www.radiowaves.co.uk) is a Web site for 5-19 year olds to share videos, podcasts and blogs, connect with others and report on their world. The site features "Latest Primary Stories" and "Latest Secondary Stories."

Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling (digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu) offers a range of resources and tutorials for educators, including a discussion about research and evaluation.

Stories for Change (storiesforchange.net) is building a network of people who are involved in community-based digital-storytelling workshops.

Bridges to Understanding (www.bridgesweb.org), a Seattle-based nonprofit organization, works internationally with K-12 schools to promote cultural understanding through collaborative storytelling. The site includes a library of digital short stories made by students from around the world.

— From "The Change Agents," *Educational Leadership*, September 2009, and "Digital Storytelling: Helping Students Find Their Voice," www.Edutopia.org, March 4, 2008

Do You Know TED?

Technology Entertainment Design, or TED, is a small nonprofit devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading." TED began in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: technology, entertainment and design. Since then, its scope has increased. The TED Web site, www.ted.com, features videos from the annual TED Conference in Long Beach, California, and the TEDGlobal conference in Oxford UK.

Assembled at the conferences are the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give "the talk of their lives" (in 18 minutes!).

These "best talks" and performances are available for viewing at www.ted.com—for FREE. More than 450 TEDTalks are now posted, with more added each week. All of the talks feature closed captions in English, and many feature subtitles in various languages. These videos are released under a Creative Commons license, so they can be freely shared and reposted for classroom use.

Let the Stories Come to You

Daily E-Clippings

The Washington State School Directors Association gathers local, state and national news clips regarding K-12 education every morning and posts them to wssda.org by 9 a.m. WSSDA also uses a listserv to distribute the daily clippings by e-mail. This service is free and available to all members of the education community. To subscribe, go to: wssda.org/wssda/Web_Forms/En-Us/WSSDAServices/ListServs/listservsubrequest.asp.

Google News Alerts

Google Alerts are e-mail updates on the latest relevant Google results (Web, news, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic. Principals can use Google News Alerts to monitor news or blog posts about their school, district or sports teams—or themselves! To sign up, go to: www.google.com/alerts.

Never Underestimate the Power of a Young Journalist!

That's the lesson from ambitious "boy reporter" Damon Weaver, the 5th grader from Florida who recently scored a one-on-one interview with Pres. Barack Obama. Weaver has interviewed Colin Powell and then-VP candidate Joseph Biden, shared the anchor desk with Diane Sawyer and Charlie Gibson, received press credentials to the Presidential Inauguration and appeared on CNN, FoxNews and MSNBC. To view Weaver's interviews, go to www.YouTube.com and search for "Damon Weaver." They're worth a watch!