**NCLC 101: Narratives of Identity**

**Digital Story**

Seminar Preparation: 9/12/11 and 9/14/11

Digital Story Due: 9/22/11 (15 points)

You will compose a digital narrative. First you will choose a narrative form that incorporates the essential elements of a digital story and relates to ideas about identity explored in NCLC 101. Then you will develop a strong narrative structure that you will enhance with your voice, music, and images. As you integrate images and audio files into your digital story, you will experience firsthand the challenges of managing intellectual property. As you decide how widely to share your work, you will consider how to manage your privacy and public persona. By sharing digital stories, we learn how our experiences connect with and are different from other members of our learning community, yielding additional insights about identity.

**Essential Elements of a Digital Story:**

Digital storytelling is an art, at the heart of which is developing a narrative and using technology to enrich the story. A digital story can take many forms; however, for the purpose of this assignment, our digital stories will take the form of digital videos composed of a sequence of images/photographs (or brief video clips), recorded narration, and a musical soundtrack or sound effects.

Important Tools. Although it is not required reading, we strongly encourage you to read the Digital Story Cookbook, particularly pages 1-35 (available for free at <http://www.storycenter.org/cookbook.pdf>), to gain a clearer sense of the types of stories you can create. We also encourage you to visit the Center for Digital Story Telling (<http://www.storycenter.org/>) to deepen your understanding of the different forms digital stories can take. Finally, spend some time following the seven steps to creating a digital story in the Digital Story Cookbook. You might wish to revisit the prompts on pages 26-27 as well as your notes from in-class discussions about creating a digital story.

Expectations. Your digital story should:

* Sustain a coherent narrative *with a clear purpose* and narrative arc;
* Include 200 – 400 words of audio narration in your own voice;
* Integrate at least ten (10) still images and/or brief video clips;
* Incorporate a soundtrack or sound effects that play underneath the voice narration or between passages of narration;
* Run for approximately 3-5 minutes; and
* Be posted in the format and location designated by your seminar instructor, which could include your Wiki or YouTube (in a private account not visible to random Web surfers).

Your digital story will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

**Adapted from** [**http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/rubrics.html**](http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/rubrics.html)

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| ****CATEGORY**** | ****4 Points**** | ****3 Points**** | ****2 Points**** | ****1 Point**** |
| 1. Purpose of Story | Establishes a clear purpose early and maintains a clear focus. Story retains integrity without music | Establishes a purpose early and maintains focus for most of the presentation. Story mostly retains integrity without music. | There are a few lapses in focus, but the purpose is fairly clear. Story sometimes retains integrity without music. | It is difficult to figure out the purpose of the presentation. Story does not stand apart from music. |
| 2. Choice of Content | Contents create a distinct atmosphere or tone that matches different parts of the story. The images may communicate symbolism and/or metaphors. | Contents create an atmosphere or tone that matches some parts of the story. The images may communicate symbolism and/or metaphors. | An attempt was made to use contents to create an atmosphere/tone but it needed more work. Image choice is logical. | Little or no attempt to use contents to create an appropriate atmosphere/tone. |
| 3. Clarity of Voice | Voice quality is clear, consistently audible, and well-paced throughout the presentation. | Voice quality is clear and consistently audible throughout the majority of the presentation. Occasionally speaks too fast or too slowly for the story line. | Voice quality is clear and consistently audible through some of the presentation. Tries to use pacing (rhythm and voice punctuation), but pacing does not fit the story line. | Voice quality needs more attention. No attempt to match the pace of the storytelling to the story line or the audience. |
| 4. Meaningful Audio Soundtrack | Music is appropriate and matches the storyline well. | Music is somewhat appropriate and mostly matches the storyline. | Music often detracts from the story. Music is not coordinated with images. | Music is distracting, inappropriate, or was not used. |
| 5. Quality of Images | Images create a distinct atmosphere or tone that matches different parts of the story. The images may communicate symbolism and/or metaphors. | Images create an atmosphere or tone that matches some parts of the story. The images may communicate symbolism and/or metaphors. | An attempt was made to use images to create an atmosphere/tone but it needed more work. Image choice is logical. | Little or no attempt to use images to create an appropriate atmosphere/tone. |
| 6. Language Use | Language/grammar contributes to clarity, style, and character development. | Language/grammar are typically correct and errors did not detract from the story. | Language/grammar errors detract from story. | Repeated errors in grammar and language detract greatly from the story. |