

# STORYTELLING THROUGH DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



**WP3 Methodology**  
**Foundations of Digital**  
**Storytelling**

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# THE SHOOT STORY-TELLING METHODOLOGY

**This methodology introduces an innovative approach to teaching by integrating digital storytelling through photography. Rooted in neuroscience, storytelling fosters emotional connections, making information more accessible and memorable.**

**It addresses challenges faced by unmotivated students and those with learning difficulties by leveraging contemporary technologies to create an engaging, inclusive learning environment.**

**Storytelling increases engagement, creativity, and comprehension across curricular subjects, while accommodating diverse learning needs, including students with learning difficulties.**



# THE SHOOT STORY-TELLING METHODOLOGY THE COMPLETE FRAMEWORK

This methodology includes a series of 3 webinars and guidelines for trainers. It is meant to be used along with the collection of Best Practices on Digital Storytelling which are also part of WP3.

It builds on the knowledge acquired through the "Teaching through Digital Immersive Photography" Student and Teacher Handbooks developed in WP2.

The methodology webinars are part of a comprehensive educational ecosystem, where students actively create knowledge, deeply engaging with the different curricular topics, leading to WP4's Student developed Immersive Lessons.



# Webinar 1: Foundations of Digital Storytelling

Today we will explore:

- an introduction to digital storytelling,
- key elements in story structuring,
- examples of telling stories using digital media and photography





# Why tell stories? (cont.)

## 2. Reflection

Understanding ourselves and others

Exploring our thinking, identities, and ideas

## 3. Deep Learning

Moving beyond memorization

Achieving substantial understanding



# Why tell stories?

Can you find other reasons?

Why tell stories?

Why tell stories now?

Why people told stories in the past?

Personal memory: what's a story that changed how you see something?





# What is Digital Storytelling?

*Telling a story using **photos** + **sound** + **words** + **imagination**.*

**Photography** (your images show the story)

**Voice / text** (you guide the meaning)

**Music or sound effects** (set the mood)

## Why it matters:

We remember stories that make us **feel** something.

Photos help us see the world from **someone else's perspective**.

A powerful story is not about expensive tools — it's about **emotion + message**.

# Traditional vs Digital Storytelling

## Traditional Stories

Written or spoken only



Limited to words



Audience listens/reads



Harder for some to follow



One-way communication



## Digital Stories

Photos, voice, video, text combined

More ways to express ideas

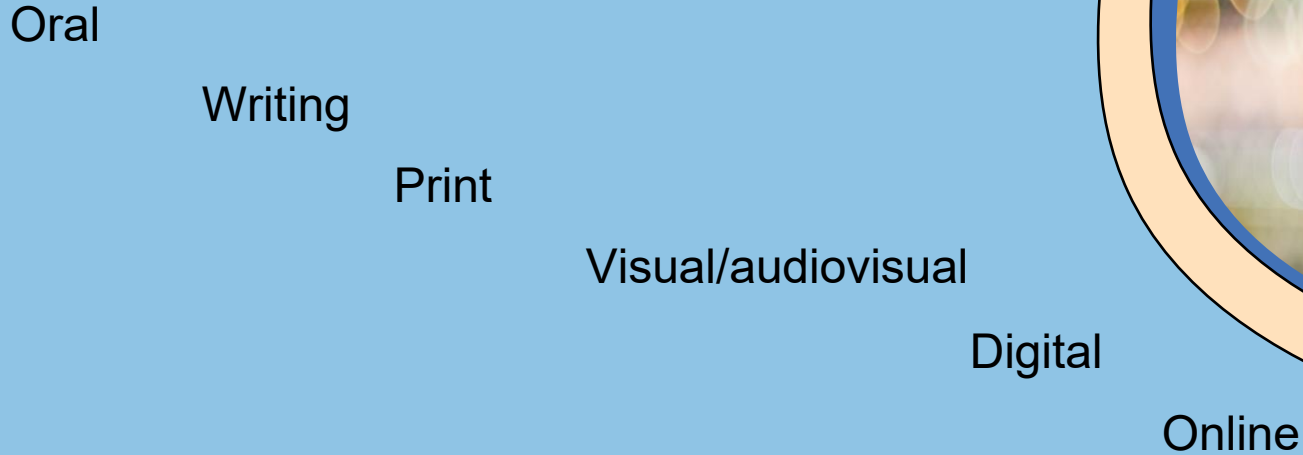
Audience **sees, hears, feels**

Supports **different learning styles**

**Interactive**, social, shareable

# History & Evolution

From oral storytelling to ever-changing media



Every technology has expanded how we tell stories.  
Digital tools are just the latest chapter.

# Emotional Resonance: How Images Evoke Empathy

Photography **captures moments, feelings, and context**

Images communicate **beyond** words

Your **unique point of view** becomes the main character

Emotional engagement helps audiences **connect** deeply





# Story structure for visual narratives part 1

## Freytag's Pyramid:

1. Exposition
2. Rising action
3. Climax
4. Falling action
5. Resolution





## Which famous story is this one?

1. Introducing two families
2. A boy and a girl meet, fall in love, and marry, despite the families' disagreement
3. Two murders make it complex for the boy, leading to his banishment
4. The girl fakes her death to avoid marrying someone else
5. The boy and the girl kill themselves



# Story structure for visual narratives part 2:

*To break the rules you need to know them  
first*

- Models like the pyramid are critical to get a solid basis **but**,
1. Escaping models is also welcome as long as you know them
  2. New media everytime create new narrative conditions and environments.
  3. Digital media are famous for breaking the continuity of narratives.

# Practical Activity: A “classic” structure

1. Watch the video called *“The Underdogs”*
2. Identify the elements of the story structure. How long does it take for the different parts of the story to unfold?
3. How does this story make you feel?



# How Stories Create Emotional Connection

- ✓ **Personal perspective:** Each story uses an individual voice or identifiable character.
- ✓ **Emotional triggers:** Music, tone of voice, visuals, and pacing provoke empathy.
- ✓ **Relatable themes:** Freedom (Walls), human dignity (Renia Spiegel).
- ✓ **Authenticity:** True or semi-true experiences make audiences feel rather than just understand.
- ✓ **Shared reflection:** Stories invite viewers to compare their own emotions and values.



# Real-World Examples of Digital Storytelling

## The Diary of Renia Spiegel

Short films from the Galicia Jewish Museum that transform a real diary into a human-rights learning tool.

*Shows how personal stories create empathy and bring history to life.*



# Real-World Examples of Digital Storytelling

## Equipo Planeta

*A TV program for children combining real people, puppets, and animation.*

*Demonstrates how storytelling can simplify complex topics like sustainability through play and imagination.*



# Real-World Examples of Digital Storytelling

## Walls

*An animated digital story by Greek high-school students inspired by C.P. Cavafy's poem.*

*Illustrates how art and poetry can be used to discuss inclusion, borders, and belonging.*



# Practical Activity: Brainstorm Your Story

**Task:** Design a digital story for your classroom

1. Think of a school subject (e.g. Science, Literature, History, Geography, Art).
2. Brainstorm a topic that could become a digital story — something that students could photograph, narrate, or visualize creatively.
3. In small groups, discuss:
  - What message would the story convey?
  - What emotions should it evoke?
  - What images or voices could express it?
4. Each group shares one sentence starting with: “Our story would show students that...”





# Thank you!

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# THE SHOOT TEAM

