

STORYTELLING THROUGH DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

WP3 Methodology

Storybuilding and Effective
Communication Techniques



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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.



Webinar 2: Storybuilding and Effective Communication Techniques

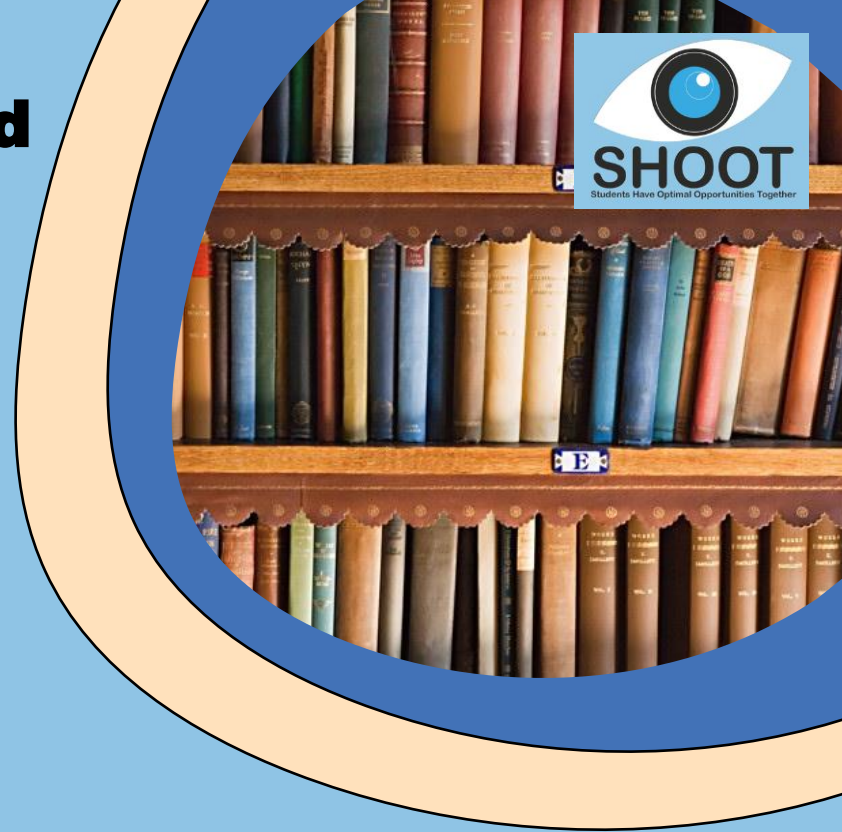


From concept to storyboard

What is a Storyboard?

a visual map of your story

- It has a beginning and an end
- Goes frame by frame as a visual outline
- It documents transitions (how people move, how cameras angles, zoom)
- It supports the creative vision
- and the technical execution
- Helps you plan before shooting




From concept to storyboard



Storyboard: **Movie Title**

Scene: **Scene Number**

Shot



Description: Describe your Shot Here

Action: Describe your Action Here


Audio: Describe your Audio Here

Camera: Describe your Camera Here

Media info: Describe your Media Info Here

Describe your Media Info Here

Shot



Description: Describe your Shot Here

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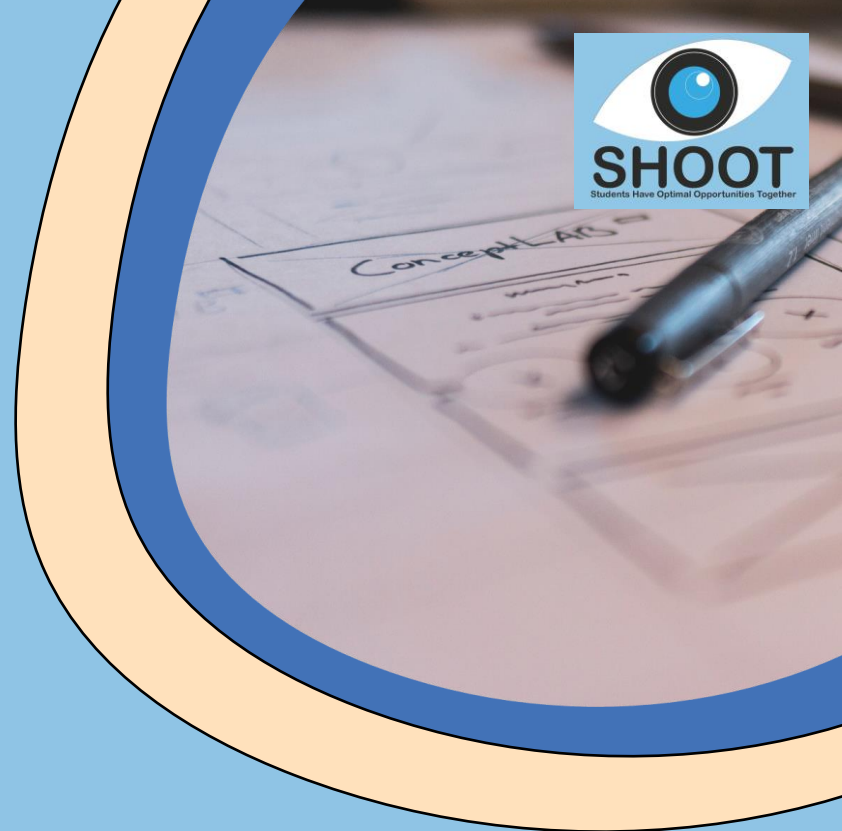
Audio: Describe your Audio Here

Camera: Describe your Camera Here

Media info: Describe your Media Info Here

Describe your Media Info Here

Frame	Sketch or Description	Message/Emotion	Notes (Transition, Characters, Setting)
1			
2			
3			
4			



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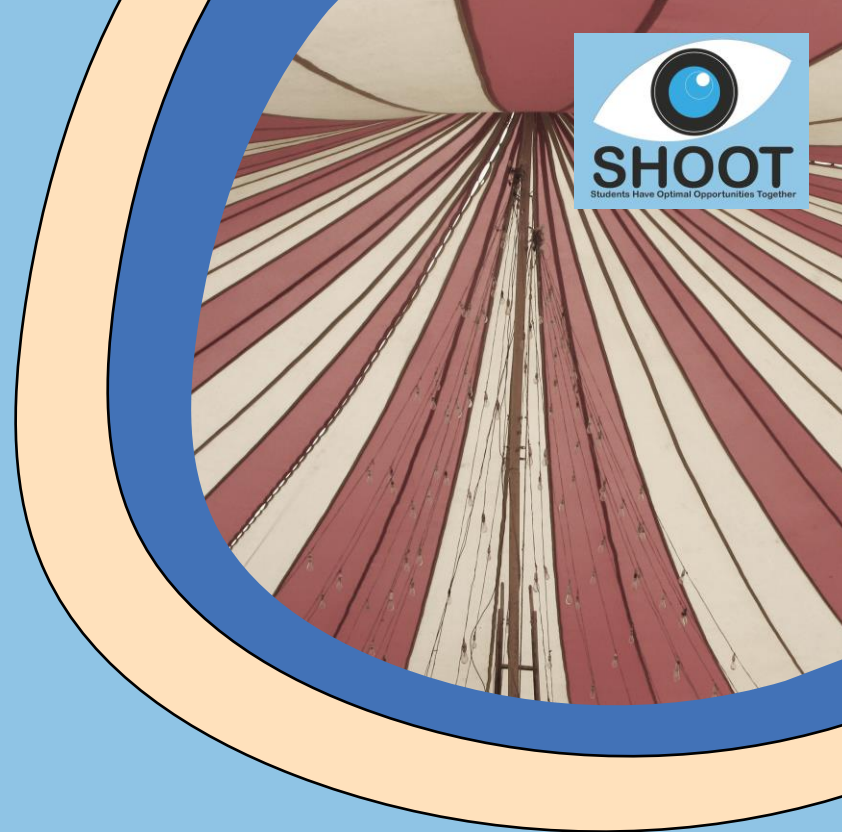
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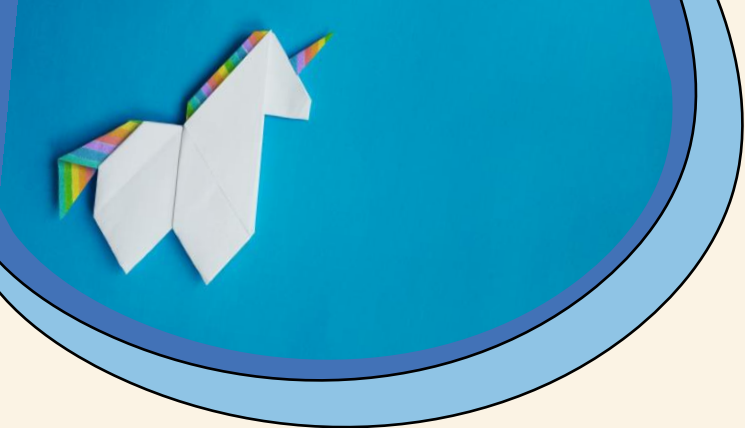
ACTIVITY 1

Create a storyboard for a scene of a Charlie Chaplin film (The Lion Cage - Charlie Chaplin *The Circus*, 1928)

- Use simple hand drawing on paper and then a digital tool with a powerpoint structure like Canva presentation or Google Slides
- Try to create the setting, the time, the characters and the transitions
- Share your storyboard with peers and discuss narrative choices



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm1N_3Inf9o

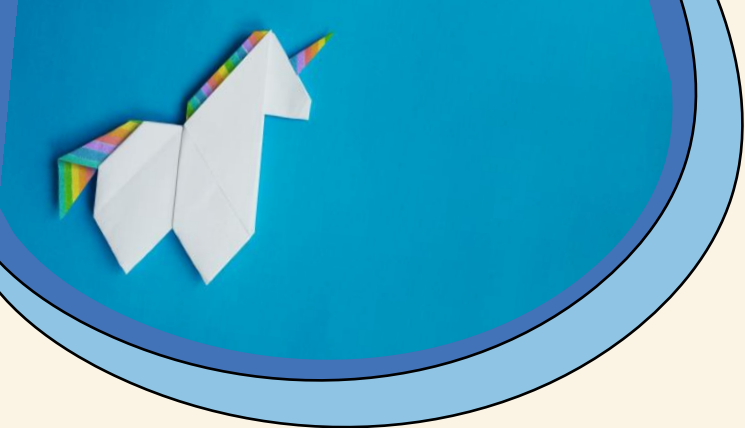


Developing Your Story Elements: Characters, Settings, and Themes

1. CHARACTERS

Key people, objects, or symbols that carry meaning
Who is central to your story? What do they represent?

Example: In Homer's *Odyssey*—Odysseus (hero/journey),
Penelope (loyalty), suitors (obstacles)



Developing Your Story Elements: Characters, Settings, and Themes

2. SETTINGS

Where and when your story happens

Time and space establish context and mood

Example: Odysseus's journey across seas (adventure, danger, unknown)

3. THEMES

Larger ideas: identity, change, justice, belonging, progress

Example: Odysseus explores homecoming, identity, perseverance



Digital Photography Skills for Storytelling

Composition basics:

- **Rule of thirds:** divide the frame into a 3x3 grid; place key elements at intersections to create balance.
- **Leading lines:** roads, staircases, shadows, rivers guide the viewer's eye, create depth and movement
- **Framing:** use windows, doorways, branches to focus in the subject. Adds layers and context





Digital Photography Skills for Storytelling

Visual literacy:

Understanding how images create, represent, communicate, alter meaning

3 powerful tools

LIGHT

COLOUR

PERSPECTIVE



Using light



- Natural vs. artificial
- Harsh vs. soft
- Shadows create mood, drama, mystery

Ansel Adams “Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico”

Using colour



- **Psychological impact:** red (passion, danger), blue (calm, sadness), green (nature, growth)
- **Cultural symbolism** varies
- **Black and white** removes color distraction, emphasizes form and emotion

Steve Mc Curry, “Afghan Girl”



Using perspective



Camera angles shape viewer engagement and power dynamics

Low angle (camera below subject) = power, dominance, drama

Eye level = equality, intimacy, connection

High angle (camera above subject) = vulnerability, weakness, context

Henri Cartier-Bresson “Behind the Gare Saint-Lazare”





Best practises recap

- Keep narratives simple and authentic
- Prioritize emotional resonance and audience connection
- Remember the importance of the storyboard to organise the narrative
- Organise and reorganise if needed the elements of the story

ACTIVITY 2

Create a storyboard for your own short photo story (3-5 images)

- Use simple hand drawing on paper and then a digital tool with a powerpoint structure like Canva presentation or Google Slides
- Share your storyboard with peers and discuss narrative choices
- Idea first, message first, concept first, storyboard after!





Best Practices Recap

- Keep narratives simple and authentic
- Prioritize emotional resonance and audience connection
- Use storyboards to organize narrative before shooting
- Be willing to reorganize story elements if needed
- Technical perfection < emotional truth
- Composition, light, color, perspective = your visual vocabulary



Effective communication techniques



Using Voice and Rhythm to Engage

Your voice is your most powerful storytelling tool.

- **Tone:** express emotions — calm, excitement, curiosity, suspense.
- **Pace:** slow down for key ideas, speed up during action.
- **Pauses:** silence adds emphasis and allows the listener to reflect.
- **Volume:** Varying maintains interest and highlights importance
- **Rhythm:** Create a natural flow that matches the story's mood



Speak Clearly – Words Everyone Understands

Inclusive communication principles

- Use **simple, concrete language**
- Avoid jargon and long sentences.
- Choose **short words with strong images**: run, build, share, dream, protect.
- When teaching **multilingual** or **mixed-ability** groups, aim for **clarity, not complexity**.
- **Inclusivity starts with language that welcomes everyone.**



Overcoming Anxiety and Speaking with Confidence-Practical strategies

- **Preparation reduces stress: rehearse 2–3 times aloud.**
- **Posture and breathing: stand tall, breathe slowly, keep eye contact (or look at the camera lens).**
- **Smiling voice: your tone changes when you smile — it makes listeners feel welcome.**
- **Before speaking: take one deep breath, pause, and start slowly.**
- **Remember: perfection isn't the goal — connection is.**



How Great Narrators Use Voice and Rhythm

TED Talks Narrators: Speakers in TED and TEDx events are masters at using voice, tone, and rhythm to keep audiences fully engaged.

- ✓ They vary pitch and pacing to emphasize key ideas.
- ✓ Use strategic pauses to let emotions sink in.
- ✓ Combine storytelling with authenticity, often starting with a personal anecdote to build connection.
- ✓ Their language is clear, inclusive, and accessible to international audiences.



Practical activity-Voice and Delivery

In pairs, read a short paragraph from a chosen text (story, poem, or school subject).

Partners give feedback on:

1. Tone and emotion—what did you feel?
2. Rhythm and pacing—too fast? Too slow? Varied?
3. Clarity of speech—easy to understand?

Repeat the reading, integrating feedback to improve delivery.



Next steps:

- Shoot your storyboarded photo story
- Practice narrating it
- Share with peers for feedback
- Revise and present

Reflection and Q&A

Final reflections:

- What was your biggest "aha" moment today?
- What skill are you most excited to practice?
- What challenges do you anticipate?





Thank you!

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THE SHOOT TEAM

