

STORYTELLING THROUGH DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



WP3 Methodology
Producing and Sharing Your
Digital Photo Story

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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 3: Producing and Sharing Your Digital Photo Story



Today we are going to look into production techniques, ethics, sharing and reflecting on our digital stories.





From production to publication:

1. **Shoot** → Capture with intention
2. **Edit** → Select and refine, sequence, crop
3. **Enhance** → Add text, audio, archival material
4. **Consider ethics** → Respect and responsibility
5. **Share** → Choose platforms and audience
6. **Evaluate** → Reflect and improve

Production Techniques- Shooting tips

- Lighting
- Focus & Clarity
- Authentic Moments



1. LIGHTING

- Use natural light when possible
- Avoid harsh shadows and overexposure unless it's a conscious choice
- Golden hour (sunrise/sunset) = beautiful, warm light
- Overcast days = even, gentle light (great for portraits)



2. FOCUS & CLARITY

- Keep your subject sharp and clear
- Use your camera's focus feature intentionally
- Blur can be artistic (shallow depth of field) but should be intentional



3. AUTHENTIC MOMENTS

- Capture genuine expressions and actions
- Candid or spontaneous often beats posed
- Patience is key! Wait for the “decisive moment”





Editing Basics-

The Selection Process

Selection Principles

- Choose images that clearly communicate your message
- Avoid redundant photos (unless repetition serves a purpose)
- Remove images that distract or confuse

Questions to ask:

- Does this image advance my story?
- What emotion or information does it convey?
- Is it visually strong (composition, light, clarity)?
- Does it work with the other images as a sequence?



Editing Basics-

Cropping and Sequencing

Cropping

- Focus attention by removing distracting information at the edges
- Improve composition (remember the rule of thirds)
- Change aspect ratio (horizontal, vertical, square)
- *Don't over-crop*—you'll lose quality



Editing Basics- Cropping and Sequencing (cont.)

Sequencing

- Arrange images in meaningful narrative order (chronological, emotional arc, conceptual progression)
- Create visual rhythm
- Test before finalising

Free tools: GIMP, Pixlr, Photoshop (if available), or phone editing apps



Adding Text, Captions & Audio

Text and captions

- Explain, enhance, or play with the meaning
- **Keep the text brief**, images are the most important here
- Captions can provide context, ask questions, add irony
- Choose **readable fonts** and appropriate placement





Adding Text, Captions & Audio (cont.)

Audio

- **Voice-over narration:** Your voice guiding the story
- **Ambient sound:** Atmosphere (classroom noise, nature sounds, city streets)
- **Music:** Sets mood and emotion
- *Audio should complement, not compete with, visuals*

Balance: Let images breathe. Don't over-explain



Adding material from digital repositories

Why use digital archives?

- Connect your story to broader history and culture
- Add materials you couldn't create yourself (historical photos, documents, artwork)
- Preserve cultural heritage creatively by giving it new context
- Enhance credibility and depth

What you can use:

- Historical photographs and documents
- Texts and literature
- Art and illustrations
- Video clips
- Audio recordings and music





Key Digital Archives & Resources

Major repositories (all openly licensed):

General archives:

- [Europeana.org](https://www.europeana.org) – European cultural heritage (+50 million items)
- [Archive.org](https://www.archive.org) - Internet Archive (books, films, music, software)
- [Euscreen.eu](https://www.euscreen.eu) - European television archives

Creative reuse projects:

- [Archive to Alive](#) An Erasmus School project using Archives
- [Europeana gif it up](#) - Create GIFs from archival films





How to use archival material

- Search by topic, date, or location
- Filter for openly licensed materials (CC, public domain)
- Download and attribute properly
- Integrate thoughtfully into your narrative





Tools for Creating and Editing Your Digital Story Content:

📄 [Canva](#) – create layouts, add captions, music, and animations.

🎧 [Audacity](#) – free software for recording and editing your narration or sound effects.

🎬 [WeVideo](#) – cloud video editor (similar features to Canva, intuitive timeline).

💻 [Clipchamp](#) – Microsoft's video editor, integrates text, transitions, and audio.

🎬 [VEV Design](#) – browser-based visual editor for interactive stories.



Don't feel overwhelmed—start with ONE tool


Integrating Voice and Images into a Narrative


How to combine voice & visuals


- Write a short script: 5–8 sentences that express the emotion, not just facts. Write like you speak, not like an essay
- Match each sentence to an image that illustrates its feeling or idea. Visual and verbal should complement, not duplicate
- Record your voice-over slowly and clearly, emphasizing tone changes (remember Webinar 2).
- Add music or ambient sound to set atmosphere.



Integrating Voice and Images into a Narrative

 **Clarity:** avoid clutter and distractions. High contrast for readability (especially text)

 **Emotional impact:** choose expressive but respectful imagery. Authentic emotion connects; manipulation alienates.

 **Immediacy:** visuals should be instantly understandable — one glance, one feeling. If an image requires a paragraph of explanation it is not appropriate.



What Makes a Digital Story Powerful?

[The Diary of Renia Spiegel](#)

Historical diary reimagined as a series of short films.

→ Demonstrates the power of authentic documents and emotional narration to build empathy.

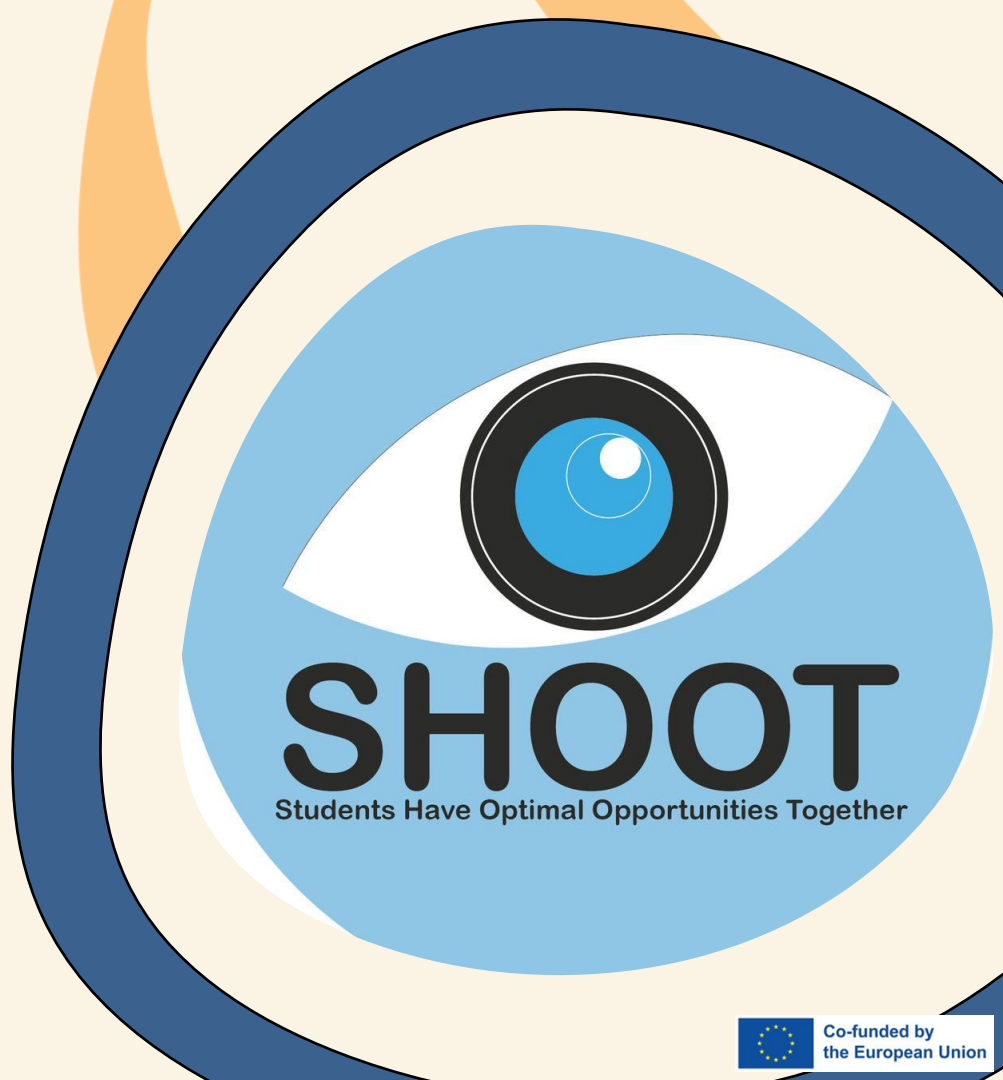


What Makes a Digital Story Powerful?

Walls

High-school students transformed Cavafy's poem "*Walls*" into an animated narrative.

→ *Shows how literature, emotion, and student voice can merge into one inclusive story.*



Activity 1

Create a Draft Digital Narrative

- In pairs or small groups, create a short storyboard or slideshow (3–5 images).
- Add a brief script (2–3 sentences) describing what the voice-over would say.
- Choose a topic connected to a school subject (e.g. science, history, environment).
- Use any of the free tools (Canva, Clipchamp, WeVideo, etc.) to create a draft.
- Present your draft to the group and get feedback on:


- 1 Visual clarity
- 2 Emotional tone
- 3 Coherence between image and voice




Ethics and Digital Citizenship



Copyright and Privacy

 **Copyright:** Use only photos, videos, or sounds that are yours or have open licenses (CC). *Never* use copyrighted music, images, or video without permission. Always attribute sources (even when not legally required, it's ethical)

 **Privacy:** never share identifiable photos of minors without consent. Be cautious with anyone's identifying information (names, locations, schools). Think “Could this image harm the subject if widely shared?”


Consent & Moral Representation


👤 **Consent:** always inform subjects how their image will be used and show them the final version. Just because they said “yes” once, it doesn’t mean it is forever... a person has the right to change their mind.

🌍 **Representation:** show people and cultures with respect — avoid stereotypes.

✂️ **Context:** ensure the selected images match the intended message (avoid misrepresentation).

Moral Representation

 Representation: show people and cultures with respect — avoid stereotypes.

 Context: ensure the selected images match the intended message (avoid misrepresentation).



Sharing Platforms

- Classroom presentations
- School website or newsletter
- Social media (*with privacy settings*) :Instagram, Facebook, Tik Tok
- And more dedicated ones like Storybird, Book creator, Toontastic, and Canva



Next steps:

- Create stories about topics you're studying: **Immersive lessons!!!**
- Keep learning
- Stay ethical
- Be brave and authentic

Reflection and Q&A

Final reflections:

- What did you learn about digital storytelling through the production process?
- What was more challenging than expected? What was easier?
- How might you use these skills in your future academic or personal work?
- What ethical considerations will you remember?





Thank you!

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THE SHOOT TEAM



EVALUATING YOUR DIGITAL STORY

Self-evaluation questions

Content:

Does my story have a clear message or purpose?
Do the images effectively communicate that message?
Is the sequence logical and emotionally coherent?

Technical:

Is image quality sufficient (focus, lighting, composition)?
Is audio clear and balanced with visuals?
Are transitions smooth?

Ethical:

Did I obtain necessary permissions and consents?
Are all materials properly sourced and attributed?
Does my story represent subjects respectfully and accurately?

Impact:

What emotion or understanding do I hope viewers gain?
Did I achieve that in my draft? What needs improvement?

