

# Digital Storytelling Workshop

In this file you can find some useful, necessary and basic information about the digital storytelling method and the preparation for the Budapest workshop. In generally the participants have enough time to search some personal photos and stories at home after the briefing, but in the case if you travel for a workshop aboard, you have to be a bit more prepared in advance.

- ***Brief preparation***
- ***Selected digital stories***
- ***Preparation in detail***
- ***Introduction to the digital storytelling***
- ***The digital storytelling process***
- ***Useful links***

**Step 1: please, watch some digital stories made in similar workshops as the Budapest one (you can find a youtube list below)**

**Step 2: please, search around in your photo box to find some photos which brings up some memories for you**

**Step 3: try to be prepared with 3 personal story ideas in your mind, one of them will be developed during the workshop**

**Step 4: please bring as much personal photos as you can related to these stories which are in your mind. For a 2 minutes digital story you need 15-25 pictures to show (in paper – we can scan them without any problem – or in digital version)**

**Step 5: please bring one small (portable) personal object which is important for you**

## Selected digital stories

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt\\_saYsrlyE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt_saYsrlyE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulK9KrKUsaA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPY4yfdPPX0&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Atyhba6XAUy&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0LEFBsXfcgs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPaqdJGw1PU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ6Nu4VN1I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asJSNn5vMGM>



## Preparation in detail

During the workshop, we would like you can complete a 1.5-2.5 minute long video based on your own story and covered by your personal photos. The choice of the story is really up to you, the important that it should be personal, which you can tell in first person. Here you can see some basic themes, you can focus on:

- My story as a... (your profession)
- Meeting different cultures (Encounters)
- Turning-points
- Across borders (I am a traveller)
- Me as a ... (Layers of my identity)
- Recognitions, etc.
- Or anything else, the important is, being personal

The story you will write and tell during the workshop should be **180-320 words** long and for this you have to use **10 to 25 images**, basically photos connected to your story. For any case, even that it will be only one story of you will be told, we would like you to be prepared with **3 different stories** and enough images.

Please, search around in the dark recesses of your homes and hard drives for some old photos of yourself. We would like you to try and find some space in your suitcases for a few (like around 30-40 pictures for the 3 stories). They don't have to be from childhood, in fact a range of photos from your lives would be excellent. Amongst all of these should be at least one photo that might bring your memories flooding back and I want you to share some of that magic with us please.

One other thing: do you have an **object of personal value** you could bring along as well? Like a gift from a loved one, or a special thing i.e. teddy bear, inherited bracelet, a trophy etc. Just make sure you can get it through customs!



## Introduction to the digital storytelling

*Digital storytelling* is a relatively new term which describes the new practice of ordinary people who use digital tools to tell their 'story' (digital narratives). Digital stories often present in compelling and emotionally engaging formats, they are usually 2-3 minutes long. One can define digital storytelling as the process by which diverse peoples share their life story and creative imaginings with others.

The digital storytelling offers story making and story distribution services that prioritize the power of individual voices. The method can perfectly used for professional development, as a reflective practice, as a pedagogical strategy, or as a vehicle for education, community mobilization, or advocacy.

During the digital storytelling workshops the participants will design and produce a 2-3 minute digital story. Sharing stories can lead to positive change. Personal narratives can touch viewers deeply, moving them to reflect on their own experiences, modify their behaviour, treat others with greater compassion, speak out about injustice, and become involved in civic and political life. Whether online, in social media or local communities, or at the institutional/policy level, the *sharing* of stories has the power to make a real difference, to understand, to learn from the stories, from each others.

To promote the value of story as a means for compassionate community action. The digital storytelling method can support individuals in rediscovering how to listen to each other and share first person stories. Anthropolis process and the stories that emerge serve as effective tools for change amidst a world of technology and media overload. The digital storytelling is useful for professional development, as a reflective practice, as a pedagogical strategy, or as a vehicle for education, community mobilization, or advocacy.



## The digital storytelling process

There is more than one model for the DS process. But in simple terms, the DS process follows the path illustrated below:



**1: Briefing.** Often known as the gathering, where potential storytellers are introduced to the concepts, processes and some examples of DS. This is a chance for storytellers to mix with each other and with their trainers. The atmosphere should be collaborative and informal, efforts must be made to allay any storyteller's fears about what lies ahead, and they should have the space to ask any questions about what is required of them. In this session it is important to demystify any issues surrounding DS, like the fear that their ideas for stories aren't very good, or that their skills/ confidence are lacking. Important areas to cover in the briefing:

- Exploring the elements of a DS
- Clear explanation of the process and timescale involved
- Advanced notification of requirements for the coming sessions i.e. when to write a script, bring in photos etc.
- Basic but essential legal/ copyright advice
- Introduce the signing-off process

**2: Writing.** Normally the writing process starts with a 'storytelling circle'. This session is designed to bond storytellers as a group and to tease out of them their innate powers of storytelling. The storytelling circle can be tailored to suit variable time slots between 2 and 4 hours. The ultimate goal is to get scripts drafted and finalised ready for voice recording. The three underlying principles of the story circle are:

- everybody gets involved (including trainers, technicians, observers etc.)
- nobody is allowed to apologise for their lack of understanding, ability or confidence



- what is said in the storytelling circle, stays within the room i.e. confidential

There are a number of activities involved in the storytelling circle. These activities can be time-consuming, so trainers tend to pick a selection, depending on the time allowed.

At the end of the story circle, every storyteller should know the subject of their story and ideally a first draft should be typed up ready to read. In the case of any storyteller who has difficulty reading, there are alternative options to consider, like producing an interview-generated narrative. Once again, by the end of the story circle, these storytellers should be content with the method they will use and the focus of the interview.

The final aspect of this phase is the creation of a storyboard for the piece. As an approximate rule, one image per sentence is recommended. This organises the storyteller and highlights any areas in the script where there may be missing images. Often storytellers find that in their mind's eye they have all the pictures they need to tell a story, but the storyboard quickly tells them they may have several images to cover one sentence, and nothing to cover the rest of the film!

**3: Recording.** This is the point at which the technical aspects of DS begin. Both the technical quality and the 'feel' of the voice recording are vital to the success of a DS. Some skill and judgment is required by the trainer to pick the right room and to settle the storyteller ready for the recording.

Included in the 'recording' phase is the capturing of images and the gathering of any music track or sound effects if it is necessary. Many of the pictures used in a DS may only be available as photos, so they will need to be scanned, or photographed using a digital camera. It is becoming regular practice to download photos from the internet, from social networking sites and the like. There are two important considerations here:

- the image sizes and resolutions
- copyright

**4: Editing.** There are several forms of editing required to produce a DS:

- the recorded voiceover track needs to be gapped and mistakes removed



- photographs need to be edited, especially if they have been scanned
- the edited soundtrack, edited photos and titles are combined to create an edit of the DS.

It is easy to underestimate the amount of work that goes into an edit. It's predominantly a technical process but the creative aspects are crucial to the production of a successful story. There are some magnificent moments during a DS edit, when the elements start to come together and tiny changes make massive improvements. Once the edit is finished, the DS is exported as a completed movie file, for sharing.

**5: Sharing.** Storytelling is a multidirectional process, so every story should be shared. Some DS are too personal to be put out to a wider audience but the rest, which accounts for the absolute majority should be made available for people to see. Three ways to share stories are:

- Burn a DVD and show family and friends
- Put them on a website, like Vimeo or YouTube
- Hold a screening event for a batch of stories and invite guests to marvel at your work

## Technical requirement

To the workshop (for the story writing and the editing process), please bring with you a:

- laptop equipped with a word or equivalent software
- usable/active version of an editing software (in generally we use a 30 days trial version of the Sony Movie Studio – details will be cleared before the workshop)
- external mouse
- headphone

For the laptop the minimum system requirements: Microsoft 7 or latest version, 2 GHz processor, 400 MB hard-disk space, 1 GB RAM, active sound card.

For MAC users, please be prepared with any editing software (eg.: iMovie). Unfortunately Anthropolis can't provide a proper preparation for using MAC software.

