

# Digital Storytelling – Steps to create your story

adapted from: <http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/training/page5897.cfm>

What is your story? Is it about ...  
someone important to you?  
an event in your life?  
a place in your life?  
who you are?  
what you believe?  
what you do?  
a challenge you have overcome?  
or is it about someone else and one of their stories?

## How do you tell your story?

(one) gather resources: photos (older the better), text, mementos, "found materials", etc.

(two) write your script: be personal, be short, be real, have a beginning, middle, end, work on the pace; pause, breath, trust your voice, and finally read aloud to yourself and others.

(third) gather equipment: computer, scanner, computer microphone, digitalized music, software (PhotoStory, Windows Movie Maker, VoiceThread, Animoto, or other)

(fourth) create a storyboard: plan out your story, time - what happens in what order?, interaction - how does your music, voice, and images work together?, good rules of thumb (no more than 15 pictures, at most 2 minutes, ideal time to show an image is 4-6 seconds - some may be longer)

(fifth) digitize your media: plan a good amount of time for this, scan as JPEG (JPG) images, and at least 720x540 pixels.

(sixth) record your voice-over: may use an external microphone attached to a computer or the built in microphone on the machine and you may want to use Audacity (free) to record and edit your recording.

(seventh) pull it all together: use PhotoStory, Windows Movie Maker, VoiceThread, Animoto and don't forget: titles at beginning and end, text overlays on images, transitions between images, and add music LAST and then work on the timing and fade ins and outs.

