

Digital Stories Across the Curriculum: Opportunities and Challenges

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Abstract: Digital stories blend audio, voice, and images into powerful creations, and have become a compelling tool for classroom teachers and students. Although the skills, tools, and practices incorporated into the making of digital stories resonate with today's students, successful and appropriate integration of technology into the classroom and curriculum remains an issue for educators. Leaders from the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE), the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE), the Conference on English Educators (CEE), the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE), and the College and University Faculty Assembly (CUFA--Social Studies) will present on the opportunities and challenges that digital stories offer for their respective disciplines, by sharing a representative digital story. The panel will be followed by commentary offered by the Director of the Center for Digital Storytelling, and will conclude with an audience Q&A.

Introduction

Digital stories blend audio, voice, and images into powerful creations (Lambert, 2002; McLellan Wyatt Digital, 2004; Porter, 2004), a medium increasingly used by people in all walks of society. In recent years, digital storytelling has become a compelling tool for classroom teachers and students (Armstrong, 2003; Brown et al., 2005; Hibbing & Rankin-Erikson, 2003; Kajder & Swenson, 2004; Riesland, 2005; Levin, 2003; McDrury & Alterio, 2003). One of the reasons that digital stories fit so well with today's students is that they incorporate the skills, tools, and practices that resonate with contemporary learners (Howe et. al, 2000; ISTE, 1997; NCREL, 2003; Oblinger, 2003; Tapscott, 1998). However, successful and appropriate integration of technology into the classroom and curriculum remains an issue for educators (Burbules & Callister, 2000; Conlon & Simpson, 2002; Guha, 2003; Hargreaves, 2003; Reiser & Dempsey, 2002; Zhao et. al, 2002). As with the introduction of word processors a generation ago, education leaders must address whether contemporary tools (such as digital stories) have a valid place in today's curriculum.

In this panel, leaders from the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE), the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE), the Conference on English Educators (CEE), the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE), and the College and University Faculty Assembly (CUFA—of the National Council for the Social Studies), will present on the opportunities and challenges that digital stories offer for their disciplines. The panelists will share representative digital stories, and provide a brief overview on the opportunities and challenges of integrating this medium into their respective disciplines. At the end of the panel presentation, Joe Lambert, Co-Founder and Director of the Center for Digital Storytelling, will offer commentary. The session will then be opened to Q&A in which audience members can ask questions of the panelists or Lambert.

Panelists

| <u>Individual</u> | <u>Association</u> | <u>Affiliation</u> |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Michael Searson | (moderator) | Kean University |
| Maggie Niess | Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators | Oregon State University |
| John Park | Association for Science Teacher Education | North Carolina State University |
| Sara Kajder | Conference on English Educators | University of Louisville |
| Dina Rosen | Nat. Assoc. of Early Childhood Teacher Educators | Kean University |
| David Hicks | National Council for the Social Studies | University of South Florida |
| Joe Lambert | (respondent) | Center for Digital Storytelling |

Panel Format

| <u>Presenter</u> | <u>Activity</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Searson | Introduction | 5 mins |
| Niess | Mathematics and digital stories | 8 mins. |
| Park | Science and digital stories | 8 mins. |
| Kajder | English and digital stories | 8 mins. |
| Rosen | Mathematics and digital stories | 8 mins. |
| Hicks | Social Studies and digital stories | 8 mins. |
| | <u>Q & A Period</u> | |
| Lambert | Commentary | 20 mins. |
| Audience members | Q & A | 25 mins. |

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