

Title: Supporting Digital Storytelling in Urban School Districts

**Abstract:**

Storytelling is important tool for many communities. There are lots of different reasons communities tell stories. In this roundtable participants will discuss the potential for using digital stories urban environments to serve urban teachers and their communities. Presenters will demonstrate a fast-track method for introducing urban middle school children and their teacher the concepts and skills needed to create a digital story. Strategies for developing cross-university collaborations as well as an institutionalized support system for digital storytelling will be discussed.

**Introduction:**

Students who are growing up in a visually stimulating, media centric world are fast becoming avid users digital media authoring tools. Whether it is creating their own PODcast or sharing the latest shots they took with their camera enabled cell phone with friends on their personal blog, students today not only know how to use digital media but use it as a conduit of self-expression.

As teachers, we too must harness the power of this technology. One area that has great potential is digital storytelling. Students and teachers can use a variety of authoring tools to create digital stories. Digital storytelling utilizes digital media to assist people in weaving images, music and narration to communicate stories as short digital videos. Digital stories are told through the storyteller's own perspective and are based on personal experiences and/or personal interpretations. Digital stories are common narrative that connects both the storyteller and the listener can create empathy and build relationships between different people and communities.

Storytelling is important tool for many communities. There are lots of different reasons communities tell stories. In this roundtable participants will discuss the potential for using digital stories urban environments to serve urban teachers and their communities. Presenters will demonstrate a fast-track method for introducing urban middle school children and their teacher the concepts and skills needed to create a digital story. Strategies for developing cross-university collaborations as well as an institutionalized support system for digital storytelling will be discussed.

**What is going to be shown and discussed?**

- Examples of stories created by children in urban settings

- Presenters will demonstrate a fast-track method for introducing urban middle school children and their teacher the concepts and skills needed to create a digital story.
- Strategies for developing cross-university collaborations as well as an institutionalized support system for digital storytelling will be discussed.
- Assessment techniques used by teacher education students
- Participants will be given opportunity to discuss relevance of this teaching practice to their personal pedagogy.
- Discussion of ways program achieved goals listed below:
  - Increase computer, information, and basic literacy skills for participating youth
  - Increase knowledge and improve attitudes and aspirations toward higher learning for participating youth
  - Help participating urban youth and teacher explore new ways to express themselves and tell their own stories and to value their own and one another's ideas
  - Help participating urban youth and teacher experience the power of personal expression through multimedia
  - To learn and practice multiple literacies, including technological literacy and visual literacy, in a relaxed and supportive setting.
  - Help participating urban youth and teacher experience find new ways to express themselves and tell their own stories, and to value their own and one another's ideas.
  - Guide participating urban youth and teacher experience the power of personal expression through multimedia.