The Children's March: Stories from the Birmingham Children's Crusade

Grade Levels 6–9

Become a Digital Storyteller!

Have you ever watched TED Talks? How about a Youtube video? Do you listen to podcasts? Do you yourself make videos or recordings? In the 21st century, we consume Digital Storytelling ALL the time!

Digital Storytelling is just what it sounds like—telling a story using digital tools. It is a great way to both entertain and inform audiences about topics and issues. Digital Storytelling is a tool used by many modern thinkers and activists to communicate with a large range of audiences.

Now, it's your turn! Using the steps outlined below, create your own video or recording and become a Digital Storyteller! Tag us on youtube or instagram using the hashtag #makehistory so we can see what you're passionate about.

First, you'll figure out your project's intentions:

1. Topic
   What are you passionate about? Where in the world do you see a need for change? Where is there inequity that you want to address?

2. Awareness
   What is the specific problem you want to address? Who is impacted? What are possible solutions?

3. Relevancy
   Why is this issue important to you? Why is it important that people prioritize this issue right now? How are you connected to it?

4. Advocacy
   Who else is working on this issue? Research organizations that are supporters and non-supporters of the area of concern.

5. Action
   How can we take our activism offline? What will be the impact of your voice? How will it create a shift or create change? After audiences view your work, what can they do concretely in their everyday lives to help solve the problem? Consider organizing local efforts to volunteer, or larger efforts to participate in things like letter writing campaigns.

6. Audience
   Many people can access Digital Storytelling, but who specifically do you wish to speak to? Who can you enroll into this collective commitment?

Next, consider your digital story's style:

1. Story
   What type of story do you want to tell? It could be:

   • a general overview of the issue at hand

   • a first-person story of someone affected by this issue

   • a conversation or interview between multiple people with different ideas

   • or anything you can imagine!

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2. Experience
   What do you want this story to feel like? Is it visual or auditory? Podcast, video, or something else entirely? You decide!

3. Aesthetic
   How do you want this story to look or sound? Consider all the different types of tools at your disposal. List your own talents and think about how they could apply to creating this digital story. Which ones best serve the topic you're trying to raise awareness about? Some ideas to consider:

   • Writing
     How can you make this script unique? How can you hook your audience into this story?

   • Sound
     If you're making a podcast or auditory project, where can you get sound effects or music that support your storytelling? Can you make some yourself? How can you edit it together?

   • Visuals
     Do you draw? Paint? Craft? There are a million ways to make your digital story eye-catching. Stop-motion, time lapse, and different video effects can make your story stand out.

4. If you're a novice with auditory or visual digital tools, fear not! This is a great time to learn. Explore the resources below to get a head start and learn as you go:

   • Guided voice recording
     StoryCorps (App)

   • Guided video and animation creation

     Powtoons (Website)

     Animaker (Website)

     Binumi (Website)

   • Cool visual tools

     Kapwing Stop Motion (Website)

     Commonsense Green Screen (App)

   • Intermediate (non-guided) video editing tools

     iMovie (free on all Apple products)

     Windows Movie Maker (free on all Microsoft products)

   • Intermediate (non-guided) audio recording and editing tools

     Audacity (free)

     GarageBand (free on all Apple products)