

Peter Blewett

English 150: Multicultural America

Digital Humanities tools and methods: Digital storytelling, including using applications such as Microsoft Office, iMovie, Screencast-O-Matic, vimeo, and WeVideo

Description of assignment:

1. Digital story assignment

- a. Upload a digital story that uses textual, audio, and visual elements to tell the story of how your experience in *Multicultural America* has led you to reflect critically on your cultural identity and background in order to resolve a question, problem, or dilemma related to our study of race and racism, and / or the structural oppression of marginalized communities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, or the United States.

2. Scaffolded assignments for the digital story assignment

- a. *Cultural identity story:* Initial attempt of students to reflect and write about their cultural identity, before any course instruction.
- b. *Semester review:* With about a month left of instruction, students identify the biggest challenge or conflict to their ways of thinking about cultural identity, whether their own or others, that resulted from class activities, readings, and discussions. Students reflect on how they have resolved that challenge or conflict, to the extent that the challenge or conflict has been resolved.
- c. *Draft:* Students construct a plot based on the identified challenge or conflict, also considering audience and other elements of storytelling.
- d. *Script:* Students start thinking of their stories in terms of scenes and arranging these scenes in order to heighten the conflict. Students trim their story to a maximum of 750 words.
- e. *Storyboard:* Students consider how visual elements can help tell their story and build a storyboard. Students consider what kinds of images to use and how to use devices such as variety and repetition to heighten the conflict of the plot and the resolution of thematic elements.
- f. *Recorded story:* Students explore the best available technical means through which to present their stories.

Digital story outcomes: The assignment is designed to help students achieve the following course learning outcome: *Reflect critically on their cultural identity and background, connecting their personal history to larger social and historical forces.*

The story should also demonstrate student achievement related to one or more of the following course learning outcomes:

1. *Distinguish between individual bias and structural oppression, with analysis of specific examples involving diverse social and / or cultural groups.*
2. *Analyze critically the historical and social construction of categories such as “race” and “ethnicity,” their relation to “white privilege,” and their impact on various dimensions of human life, including how such constructions create systematic inequalities between the dominant and the marginalized.*

Digital story rubric:

Responsiveness: The digital story focuses on a compelling theme related to the student's achievement of the course learning outcomes for Multicultural America.

Structure: The plot of the story is constructed around a compelling conflict, problem, or dilemma that the student explored during the semester.

Imagery and language: The language and the visual imagery work together to produce a compelling, coherent, and unified digital story.

Pace: The slides work seamlessly with the textual elements, using techniques such as variety, repetition, and timing to create a compelling and emphatic digital story.

Technical elements: The technical elements of the digital story, including visual and audio elements, combine to produce a compelling digital story. Technical elements also include documentation of materials used.

Sample license form:**[License to use academic materials](#)****Sample assignments:**

Hunter Dorow:

[Dorow. Cultural identity story](#)

[Dorow. Semester review](#)

[Dorow. Draft](#)

[Dorow. Script](#)

[Dorow. Storyboard](#)

[Dorow. Digital story. Keep In](#)

Tamika Tupta:

[Tupta. Cultural identity story](#)

[Tupta Semester review](#)

[Tupta. Draft](#)

[Tupta. Script](#)

[Tupta. Storyboard](#)

[Tupta. Digital story. Diary of a Milwaukee Black Woman. Note: Story needs to be played through Powerpoint desktop application](#)