

Digital Narrative #1: Tell a Story About an Aspect of Your Identity

Step 1: 100 word memoir* about an aspect of your identity

Instructions:

In exactly 100 words (on Google Docs click "tools" and "word count"), tell the story of a significant moment in your life.

Use three of the "writing moves" (e.g., dialogue, paragraphing, sensory details, imagery, diction, humor, etc...) that we have discussed in class.

After you have written your 100 memoir, highlight and label each of the "writing moves" that you used (use the comment feature on Google Docs).

Step 2: Craft one scene* of a story about an aspect of your identity

Instructions:

Review the daily quick writing entries in your notebook to spark ideas.

Show a moment in time (scene) through the use of sensory details (see, taste, feel, hear, smell) to help readers imagine and live inside the experiences of this particular moment.

Balance show and tell to establish the pace of the scene and show readers what matters.

Use dialogue to reveal characters both in what is said and not said and through the words of other characters.

Use word choice to create a believable, consistent voice for the narrator of the scene.

Polish your writing for an audience by proofreading line by line.

Your scene should be 500+ words.

Step 3: Craft several scenes* to tell a story about an aspect of your identity

Instructions:

1. Review the daily writing entries and passage studies in your writer's notebook to spark ideas.
 2. Craft several effective scenes to develop a story around an aspect of identity. You can choose to focus on yourself, someone you know, or create a fictional story, but your story must connect to an aspect of identity in some way.
 3. Organize scenes to create momentum and to best develop the purpose for readers. Use flashbacks and flash forwards effectively.
 4. Create effective transitions to link scenes and bring cohesion into the story.
 5. Engage readers with a dynamic lead.
 6. Create an effective ending to reflect on why the story is told or why it matters.
 7. Craft word choice to create the tone of the piece and to develop the narrator's voice.
 8. Use major and minor characters to interpret or elaborate on the big ideas or theme of your story.
 9. Proofread, edit, and polish as you write.
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Step 4: Tell your story in a digital format

Ben Ostermeier from SIUE's IRIS Center provided students with a tutorial of the ShotCut software and PC computers.

Instructions:

Now that you have written a short story, you are going to use [digital technology](#) to publish your story.

You might choose to create an audio recording with sound effects, a video with multiple scenes, or another creative idea.