Digital Narrative Part III: Family Stories

Goal:
For this final digital narrative project, you will be creating a video or podcast that features you and at least one other family member. This digital narrative will be a story (not an interview!) about your chosen family member.

Choose one of the following prompts for your story:

● A time when the family member had a difficult time communicating with a person of a different generation

● An experience from the family member’s childhood that feels important

● How the family member overcame a difficult situation/ experience

● What has life been like for you during the COVID 19 Shelter in Place mandate? What do you want to remember about this time together?

● Do a walking tour of your neighborhood/ the area near your house. What details of your neighborhood and of the world do you notice now that you normally would miss (if you were not under a shelter in place mandate)? Have your family member do this with you or discuss your observations with them.

● Feel free to email me about other ideas you have for this project.

Process:

1. Choose a family member and decide what kind of story you would like to ask them about.

2. Compose questions that you can ask your family member about their story.

3. Talk with your family member and listen to their story. Record this conversation (digitally or can write a transcript as you talk or you can use Google’s “Talk to Text” feature).

4. On your own, review the conversation you had with your family member.

5. Plot out their story on a plot chart (Exposition, initial incident, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, and denouement). Consider if you want to tell the story in first, second, or third person POV. Remember, this is NOT an interview; you should take the raw interview material and transform it into a story. Use 10+ narrative writer’s moves in your story.

6. You might check back in with your family member to show them the rough sketch that you have outlined for their story. Make sure that they are comfortable with how you are telling their story and which details you are emphasizing.

7. Compose a full script of the story.

8. Add your own reflection to the denouement (the final part of the story when all of the conflicts and themes are resolved): How do you, as a teenager in 2020, feel about/ think about this story?
9. Consider adding images, animations, sound effects, text, etc to enhance the story you are telling. Reflect on the videos and podcasts from last semester that really stood out to you. Push yourself to be more creative on this digital narrative!

See examples of digital stories on Google Classroom

Requirements:
- 2-4 minutes
- Images OR sound effects OR a video
- Your voice should narrate the story
- Should be meaningful and work that you are proud of

We will share our video creations with each other on Google Classroom :