

# 7 steps

## of digital storytelling



"May the seven steps outlined... help guide you in translating your imagination and talents into a story you will be proud to tell."

--Bernajean Porter

#1

### Writing a Script

Before writing the script, you will want to find your story.

The script is the heart and soul of each digital story.

Try reading or telling your story out loud. Listen to the writing style. Revise the sentence structure and vocabulary choices until the story has a style that suits your audience and purpose.

### Planning the Project

Plan FIRST! It is well worth the up-front time. Use storyboarding templates, image/shot lists, and music/sound lists.

Storyboards provide the "BIG" visual blueprint of all the detailed choices you make for each scene or image frame for your digital story. Modify as often as needed while keeping track of both the details and "big" picture of your story.

#2

### Organizing Project Folders

Each digital story is considered a project. Keep all resources and assets organized together within the final project folder. If these files are stored randomly or separately, you may find yourself having to hunt down their location.

#3

### Making the Voiceover

Voices engage the audience in the personal content and emotional meaning of the story. A storytelling voice establishes a personal relationship with listeners as the story unfolds. Your voice with all its power and flaws expresses the real magic in your story because the story is told in a way that no other than you can deliver.

#4

### Gathering and Preparing Resources

Now it is time to be guided by the storyboard planning. Use your storyboard and lists to gather and prepare all media. This is a very different approach than narrating whatever images were gathered. The technical tools and skills needed to complete this task provide a great playground for learning and making your story unique.

#5

### Putting it ALL Together

You are now ready to spin your tale with video-editing tools. All the elements are mixed together following the storyboard. Your ultimate goal is to draw viewers into the story and keep them there as it unfolds. Each media element is used to extend the story's meaning and impact. Beware the danger of eternal dabbling, polishing or modifying, thus creating a never-ending, never quite ever finished story project!

#6

### Applause! Applause!

What joy to finish a digital story! There is much to celebrate. When we share our stories, we close the story experience for those who have been creating together. By publishing, the digital story lives happily ever after... a living artifact... a personal legacy.

#7

"After all the guidelines, steps and rules-of-thumb, the most important element of a successful digital story is to have fun!"

--Bernajean Porter