

Rationale

Regardless of the field of work or study a student may choose to pursue, advanced digital storytelling provides benefits. Now, more than ever, the ability to critically assess digital media is central to our democratic health. Innovative answers to human and environmental problems begin with courageous truth-telling. Students must be empowered to find their voices and shape the future for good. Digital storytelling provides an opportunity for students to tell powerful narratives that resonate with audiences. Digital Storytelling prepares students to apply journalistic techniques learned in the classroom to effectively create meaningful short films, documentaries, podcasts, newsmagazine broadcasts and other special projects that delve into deep, well-researched topics of value to a larger audience than just that of the school itself.

Course Description

The student will review and apply fundamentals of journalism, including ingredients of a good story. The student will research with a purpose and select meaningful projects that reflect higher-level thinking and depth of knowledge. The student will conduct interviews with integrity and apply ethics of digital reporting. The student will learn and apply techniques to hook and hold an audience. The student will refine editing and production skills to create a dynamic viewing and listening experience for the viewer. The student will also evaluate and implement distribution strategies for their work after analyzing best practices in promotion. The course will culminate with a film festival that will showcase the work of Digital Storytelling to students, parents and community members. Travel off-campus may occur (with parent permission) for this course.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English I and English II; application process (Broadcast Journalism and Journalism I recommended but not required)

Open to: 11, 12

Credit: .5 unit – one semester (Practical Art or elective); the student may take this course more than once

Course Objectives

1. The student will research with a purpose and select meaningful topics for digital storytelling projects. (A+ Research)
2. The student will read and gather information from interviews and note taking, as well as from visual, electronic and printed media. (A+: Reading)
3. The student will apply a writing process (including writing and editing scripts, voiceovers, and standups) to write effectively in various forms and types of writing. (A+: Writing)
4. The student will produce a digital story using technology including taking photos, shooting video, recording audio, editing film using production software and a computer.
5. The student will present his/her work to a live audience with a prepared speech explaining the work/process and will be available to answer questions after the event. (A+ Speaking and Listening)
6. The student will follow ethical journalistic standards provided by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) and laws when reporting, writing and producing multimedia presentations.
7. The student will create promotional material and messages for the film festival as well as invite students, teachers, and community members to be part of the audience.

BOE Approved: 12/14/17