

School District of Springfield Township

Springfield Township High School Course Overview

Course: Digital Storytelling

Course Description

Digital Storytelling is an outlet for creative writers with an interest in film studies and the medium for the modern narrative. Students will explore collaborative workspaces in an online environment as a means to connect to other aspiring filmmakers. By investigating new media, reading contemporary digital storytelling techniques, and analyzing current filmmaking trends students will learn written and visual strategies for sharing with a global audience.

Course Prerequisites

A minimum final grade of “C” in Digital Video Production or teacher recommendation

Unit Titles

Unit 1: The Story Arc

Unit 2: The Film Festival

Essential Questions

1. What are the essential elements in effective digital stories?
2. What are treatments?
3. How is an interview, music video, or documentary prepared, organized, and produced?
4. How can a director dictate the mood of a scene?
5. How do camera shots affect that mood?
6. How does the soundtrack affect the mood of a story?
7. How can a story be compressed to be visually appealing while maintaining content and continuity?

Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings

Unit 1: The Story Arc

- Stories are not told in a straight line.
- The pace and rhythm of a story is dictated by the director.
- Showing is more powerful than telling an audience.
- Stories are ultimately about change.

Unit 2: The Film Festival

- Planning and organizing the process is as important as filming and editing a short movie or documentary.

Key Competencies: Skills/Processes/Procedures

Unit 1: The Story Arc

- Students will be able to develop their own voice while considering their audience in their storytelling.
- Students will be able to develop creative tension in their stories.
- Students will be able to write scripts.
- Students will be able to organize and direct a video.
- Students will be able to import footage into the computer and edit using Final Cut Express.

Unit 2: The Film Festival

- Students will be able to analyze professional and student examples of video.
- Students will be able to create a treatment, screenplay, and shot sheet.
- Students will examine the impact shutter speed has on imagery.
- Students will be able to research a topic for their documentary. (optional)
- Students will apply scripting, camera, and editing techniques to tell a visual story with a focus on variety, continuity, and emotion.

Core Vocabulary

Unit 1: The Story Arc

Explicit and implicit dialogue, dramatic turn, Kuleshov effect, overlapping action, cutting on action, avoid lagging lull

Core Resources

A Curriculum for Digital Media Creation, Kallen and Marco Antonio Torres

Final Cut Express video editing software

Digital Camcorders

State Standards Guiding Course

Unit 1: The Story Arc

1.2 Reading Critically in All Content Areas

- A. Read and understand essential content of informational texts and documents.
- C. Produce work in at least one literary genre that follows the conventions of the genre.

1.4 Types of Writing

- A. Write short stories, poems, and plays.
- C. Write persuasive pieces.

1.5 Quality of Writing

- A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus.
- B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.
- C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.
- D. Write with a command of the stylistic aspects of composition
- E. Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how questions of purpose, audience and genre have been addressed.
- F. Edit writing using the conventions of language.

- G. Present and/or defend written work for publication when appropriate.
- 1.6 Speaking and Listening
 - A. Listen to others.
 - C. Speak using skills appropriate to formal speech situations.
 - D. Contribute to discussions.
 - E. Participate in small and large group discussions and presentations.
 - F. Use media for learning purposes.

Unit 2: The Film Festival (Documentary Option)

- 1.1 Learning to Read Independently
 - A. Locate various texts, media and traditional resources for assigned and independent projects.
 - D. Identify, describe, evaluate, and synthesize the essential ideas in text.
- 1.2 Reading Critically in All Content Areas
 - A. Read and understand essential content of informational texts and documents.
 - C. Produce work in at least one literary genre that follows the conventions of the genre.
- 1.4 Types of Writing
 - A. Write short stories, poems, and plays.
 - B. Write complex informational pieces.
 - C. Write persuasive pieces.
- 1.5 Quality of Writing
 - A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus.
 - B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.
 - D. Write with a command of the stylistic aspects of composition.
 - C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.
 - E. Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how questions of purpose, audience and genre have been addressed.
 - F. Edit writing using the conventions of language.
 - G. Present and/or defend written work for publication when appropriate.
- 1.6 Speaking and Listening
 - A. Listen to others.
 - B. Listen to selections of literature.
 - C. Speak using skills appropriate to formal speech situations.
 - D. Contribute to discussions.
 - E. Participate in small and large group discussions and presentations.
 - F. Use media for learning purposes.
- 1.8 Research
 - A. Select and refine a topic for research.
 - B. Locate information using appropriate sources and strategies.
 - C. Organize, summarize and present the main ideas from research.

