

DigiTales Camp: Creating Visual Essays and Reports

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Visual communication is the leading edge learning and thinking tool. Of all our senses, the eyes are the most powerful information conduit to the brain – processing graphics is 60,000 times faster than text (3M, 2001). In today’s classrooms, technology tools enable students to “envision information” by providing opportunities to make sense of, evaluate, and share their deep understanding of content areas. This three day media communication camp will prepare teachers to guide their students in developing visual literacy through the “reading and writing” of effective and content rich visual essays and reports. Participants will experience the joy of authoring their own expertise by creating a digital information product and along the way learn to use multiple software tools. DigiTales Camp is an energy-packed digital playground for kids of all ages.

Audience: Classroom teachers, curriculum leaders and staff developers – kids welcome!

Duration: Three days – participants will produce a CD of their own digital product.

Special Preparation: All participants will need to come prepared with a 1 page essay or report on a self-identified topic or area of personal expertise (i.e. *The Life of a Snake Personified, How to Raise Bees, Using Brain-Research with Learners, Panning for Gold, Learning to Love Emily Dickenson Poetry, Comparing the Vietnam War with Iraq War, Reading Auras, Comparing Picasso and Van Gogh’s Work, or Raising Llamas.*) Also participants will want to bring any original or digitized photos, music or other resource content elements believed useful in producing their digital product.

Three Day Agendas

Day 1

Opening

Topic: Visual Literacy

Lab Activity: Gallerywalk of Student Visual Essays and Reports

Process: Reflecting on Content and Craftsmanship

Topic: Copyright Friendly Products

Topic: Designing Information

Process: Flash Scoring for Images, Sound and Design Communication

Topic: Types of Communication

Topic: Developing a Visual Essay or Report

Topic: Step One – Identifying Topics, Audience and Type of Communication

Process: Story Circle of Experts

Topic: Step Two – Pre-Production Scripting, Shot Lists, and Storyboarding

Tutorial: Getting to Know Inspiration Software

Process: Working with Storyboarding and Planning Templates

Process: Creating Resource Banks of Content Elements (Internet, Scanning, Digitizing)
Topic: Tips for Effective Images
Topic: Tips for Effective Camera Production
Topic: Tips for Constructing Effective Graphs and Charts
Process: Project Time to Wrap up Scripts, and Storyboards
Closing

Day 2

Opening
Tutorial: Getting to Know Photoshop Elements Software
Process: Using Photoshop Elements to Prepare Images
Topic: Tips for Sound Production
Process: Preparing the Digital Voice-Over from the Narrative Script
Process: Project Time to Wrap Voice-Overs and Resource Banks
Closing

Day 3

Opening
Topic: Choosing Final Production Authoring Tools
Topic: Creative melding of video, audio and graphics
Tutorial: Getting to Know eZedia Multi-media Software
Optional Tutorials: Getting to Know iMovie, Final Cut Express, Premier, or QuickTime Pro
Process: Authoring the Digital Product
Process: The Group's Final Really BIG Show
Process: Reflecting and Planning Next Steps
Closing

About the Presenters

Bernajean Porter provides a spectrum of practical tools and services to scale and sustain technology's potential culled from 18 years of national and international experience. Her work reflects a belief that technology can accelerate all students in rediscovering their joy and personal success as learners. Bernajean's philosophy of work uses cutting edge organizational processes for building local capacity to translate the power of technology's potential into actual classroom practices for ALL students. Her enthusiasm and vivacious presentations create an energetic climate for all learners. When it comes to doing the hard or impossible things now necessary in schools to ensure students having out-of-this-world possibilities, Bernajean's personal motto of "*Da Um Jeitinho*"- there is ALWAYS a way – sets the tone for her dedicated long, term work with national and international educators.

She is author of *Grappling with Accountability 2002: MAPPING Tools for Organizing and Assessing Technology for Student Results; Evaluating Student Computer-based Products: Training and Resource Tools for Using Student Scoring Guides; Nutz and Boltz of Engaging and Empowering Large Groups*; and contributor to *Snapshots: Educational*

Insights from the Thornburg Center. She has been on presidential advisory boards, worked as a state department of education technology consultant, recognized by ISTE as Consultant of the Year, directed state-wide initiatives, and participated in multiple technology literacy challenge grant training/assessments. Bernajean's work uses the application of systems thinking, chaos theory and her love of kids to deal with the challenges of change and re-culturing efforts in education today.

Bernajean's workshops are invigorating, fun and packed with get-started ideas! For more information or to contact her for scheduling this workshop, call (303) 647-2383 or see her website at <http://www.bjpconsulting.com>

Storyteller, pedagogical expert, and proponent of creative uses of technology with young people, Dr. Armstrong draws on her 30 years of experience in education to inspire audiences, develop and implement professional development, and advance district and statewide systemic change. Sara is contributor and editor of *Snapshots: Educational Insights from the Thornburg Center*.

For more information or to contact Sara Armstrong for scheduling this workshop, contact her at 510-848-6340