Digital Storytelling in Higher Education

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'Digital storytelling' refers to the use of a range of digital tools to present one or more ideas.

In education, digital stories have an explicit or implicit educational purpose(s).

Digital storytelling can be a powerful tool for teaching and learning. It can also support public engagement and impact; participatory research (e.g. de Jager et al, 2017). Finally, digital storytelling can be an effective way of capturing the voices of students and other communities as a means of bridging divides or shaping services.

Examples of Digital Storytelling using various apps/platforms

Why is Digital Storytelling Important?

While there is a scarcity of empirical evidence to support digital storytelling in teaching and learning, there is much to suggest digital storytelling is an effective and beneficial approach.

There is evidence to suggest that stories evoke powerful empathic and other neurobiological responses in our brains, including improved factual recall.

When students are supported to create and share stories themselves, Mariotti (2009)* argues that constructing learning artefacts enables learners to both build shared meanings and relate with personal understanding.

This, it is argued, leads to a better understanding of the object of study and improvements in student initiative.

Examples of Digital Storytelling in Higher Education

Stories about Research
- Mission to the Sun – Imperial College London

- State of Mind – University of Western Australia

Student-generated Stories
- Group assignment submission from undergraduate English language students at the University of Kragujevac, Serbia
- Example of an individual reflective assignment submission IUPUI Office of Community Engagement

Do you use digital storytelling at Strathclyde? Would you like to share an experience or find out more? Please use the comments box below to join the conversation