DIGITAL STORYTELLING CONTEST
DISTCO

| DISTCO 2019 | MANUAL |

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WHAT IS DIGITAL STORYTELLING?

In essence, **Digital storytelling** is a process of creating a short movie that combines a **script** or an **original story** with various multimedia components, such as **images, video, music and a narration**, often an **author's own voice**.

Digital storytelling combines the art of storytelling with a variety of multimedia components, such as sound, music, digital pictures, video clips and text. Digital stories usually last between two and ten minutes. Topics used can include personal tales, retellings of historical events, teaching/introducing a specific subject to an audience, and various other purposes.

Digital storytelling is an educational technology tool that utilizes skills students are expected to have in the 21st century. Information literacy, visual literacy, being creative and taking risks, and using the latest technology to communicate effectively can all be achieved when students actively participate in the creation process of digital storytelling.

SAMPLE STORIES

Please check following websites for sample stories:

http://www.distco.org/gallery-Official DISTCO Website

http://www.youtube.com/thedistco - Official YouTube channel for DISTCO

HOW CAN I CREATE A DIGITAL STORY?

You may watch a video tutorial about how to create a digital story on Tutorials page. You will need to have digital images* to illustrate your point, a script, some multimedia components such as sound clips, music, and gift of your own voice to narrate your story. Please check for more information on how to create a digital story.

* Ideally digital images should be taken by your own camera. You may also use copyright-free images found on the Internet. See Resources page at distco.org for a list of copyright-free images and sound files. Please see Copyright Issues section under Rules for more information.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF CREATING A DIGITAL STORY?

(Jakes and Brannon, 2005)

- **Writing**
- **Script**
- **Storyboarding**
- **Locating Multimedia**
- **Creating Digital Story**
- **Sharing**

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF DIGITAL STORIES?

While Digital Stories can be on any subject, Digital Stories can be categorized in three major areas in general:

- **Personal Stories,**
- **Stories that instruct**
- **Re–telling of historical events.**

HOW LONG SHOULD A DIGITAL STORY BE?

Digital stories typically last between 2 and 6 minutes. Be careful about the length of your story. If it is longer than 6 minutes, your audience might be bored. If it is less than 2 minutes, you might not be able to convey your message.

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A DIGITAL STORY?

(LAMBERT, 2003)

- **Point of View**
- **A Dramatic Question**
- **Emotional Content**
- **The Gift of Your Voice**
- **The Power of the Soundtrack**
- **Economy**
- **Pacing**

HOW CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON DIGITAL STORYTELLING?

You may start from [DISTCO's Resources](#) webpage.

ABOUT DISTCO

The **DISTCO** is part of a series of **"Digital Storytelling Contests (DISTCO)"** hosted by **Department of Curriculum and Instruction** at the **University of Houston.** The **2018–2019 academic year** marks the **11th year of the DISTCO** project which saw a tremendous increase in popularity and participation since its inception in **2008.**

The first contest of the **DISTCO** series, **DISTCO 2008**, was initiated in the fall of 2008. The first contest was followed by a contest each year thus making the contest an annual event.

The DISTCO asks participants to submit their digital stories in a certain time frame and manner for the contest. The contest is open to all **K–12 students and teachers at both national and international level.** Undergraduate students who are majoring in Education (pre-service teachers) are welcome to submit their stories to DISTCO. In addition, DISTCO accepts submissions from **undergraduate, graduate and faculty members at the university level.**

The competition is held online through **www.distco.org.** The project has numerous benefits for both students and teachers. It is a way of exposing participants to world of storytelling, scripting, storyboarding, video production and multimedia. The contest challenges students in a competition where they can showcase their skills in, technology, multimedia, research, presentation, writing and creativity.

RULES

For an updated list of rules, please visit www.distco.org/rules

PARTICIPANTS:

The DISTCO is open for **K–12 Students**, **Teachers,** and **Higher Education** in following categories:

1– **Elementary School** (Students in Grades K-5),

2–**Middle School** (Students in Grades 6-8),

3–**High School** (Students in Grades 9-12),

4–**Teachers** (In-service or Pre-service Teachers*)

5–**Higher Education** (Undergraduate, Graduate, and Faculty)

* Pre-service teachers who are in training in a college/university majoring in education are welcome to participate under the Teachers Category.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

DISTCO accepts international submissions. Please note that all international entries will be evaluated separately under "International Category". Please note that language of the video should be in English to be qualified for judging.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE STORIES

The language of the stories must be in English. However, a narration (e.g. voice-over, voice recording) in other languages are accepted if English subtitles are provided in the digital story.

TIMELINE

ACTIVITY	DATE	EXPLANATION
REGISTRATION	February 25 – April 1, 2019	The DISTCO website will accept Registrations and Digital Story submissions starting from February 25, 2019. SUBMISSION STEPS: REGISTRATION PERIOD: (2/25/2019 to 4/1/2019) Step 1: Complete Registration Form at www.distco.org/submissions Step 2: Take DISTCO Pre-Survey by April 1, 2019. Step 3: Complete your Digital Story**
DIGITAL STORY SUBMISSIONS	March 20 – April 10, 2019	Step 4: Take DISTCO Post-Survey Step 5: Submit your Digital Story by April 10, 2019 at www.distco.org/submissions
JUDGING	April 10-17, 2019	Official Judging &Popular Voting will take place between April 10, 2019 – April 17, 2019.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS	April 17, 2019	Winners will be announced through the official website on or after April 17, 2019
AWARD CEREMONY	May 4, 2018	Place: University of Houston- Sugar Land

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

There is **no fee** involved for participating in DISTCO, however student participants are required to fill out an online consent form and take a survey related to Digital Storytelling research at the time of the submission in order to be considered and eligible for judging. The survey and consent form will need be completed **prior to the submission of** Digital Stories to the system. Digital Story submissions will not be accepted until the required survey and consent form is sent through the **DISTCO submission website.**

No fees are involved for teacher participants. An online consent form is required to be filled out during survey submission.

ELIGIBILITY AND NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

Both student and teacher participants should send at least one original entry in order to be qualified for judging. All participants may send a second digital story (entry) to any of the available DISTCO Subject categories. Participants submitting same Digital Story to more than one category will be disqualified.

CATEGORIES

A Digital Story can be created in variety of subjects. However when submitting Digital Stories to the DISTCO, the closest category related to the topic of the Digital Story should be selected. Following categories are available for digital story submissions in DISTCO:

SUBJECT CATEGORIES (Open to Grades K-12 & International)

- Art
- Cultures/Religions
- Computers/Technology
- English Language Arts
- Health/Medical
- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal Stories/Reflections
- Places/Travel
- Physical Education/Sports
- Pop Culture
- Science/Engineering
- Social Studies

GROUP PROJECTS

DISTCO prefers individual work submissions. However, team projects will be allowed with following conditions:

- Group project should be submitted under one of the participant as the main contact. For example, group members may designate a group leader for this purpose. This person should responsible for communicating with DISTCO.
- The group leader should submit the project on behalf of other group members. Names of the group members can be added during registrations.
- While registering to the website, the student representing the group should indicate the project as a group project and enter the names of group members. Failure to complete this step will disqualify the project for judging.
- In the case of winning a reward, student who registered on behalf of the group will be contacted. At least one person representing the group should attend the DISTCO Award ceremony. If necessary, an Absentee Form can be used for the award ceremony. See Awards section for more details.
- The winning group should acknowledge that the DISTCO can award only one reward (e.g. one gift card or one iPad) for a single project. It will be group members' responsibility to decide on how to share reward among the group members.

DIGITAL STORY FORMAT

Digital Story should include following items:

1 – **An original script or a story** (A script within the story is needed, a separate script file for submission is not required)
2 – **Multimedia elements such as images and sounds. Video clips are OPTIONAL.**
3 – **A narration, preferably a voice over by the author.**

VIDEO FORMAT AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please note that DISTCO Prefers a **Youtube link** for submission. However, file uploads will also be accepted. ***You may choose only ONE option (either YouTube or File Upload) for file submission.***

YOUTUBE LINK SUBMISSION RULES:

Make sure to set your YouTube link to **"Unlisted"** or **"Public".** If set to "Private", you will be disqualified.

Make sure your link will be active and working before and after the EVALUATION period. If your link doesn't work at the time of EVALUATIONS, you will be disqualified.

Please refer to **http://www.distco.org/tutorials** for how to use YOUTUBE for your Digital Story submission.

FILE UPLOAD RULES:

Video file size should not exceed **100 MB** (Videos higher than 100 MB in size will be automatically rejected by the system).

For best results, your video display size should be at least (640X480)

Video file format can be in **.mp4, .wmv, .avi, or .mov.** Videos received in other formats may be disqualified.

DIGITAL STORYTELLING SOFTWARE

DISTCO officially recommends following software:

- WeVideo (a cloud-based video editing software integrated with Google Drive) for beginner to advanced users for creating Digital Stories.
- Windows Movie Maker for intermediate users.
- iMovie for advanced users.

HELPFUL VIDEO TUTORIALS

Visit Tutorials page for a list and video tutorials of software that can be used for digital stories.

COPYRIGHT ISSUES

The **story** (script) **and multimedia elements** (Images, sound clips, and videos) used for digital stories should be original work. **Digital Stories prepared with original pictures taken by participants' digital camera along with an original story is preferred by DISTCO and will receive higher scores during judging.** However, when pictures from Internet will need to be used, students are required to follow copyright rules. A good step would be starting from **copyright–free image/sound websites** located at www.distco.org/resources.

If copyrighted images will be used or the copyright status is not known, the participants will have to properly **credit/cite*** the elements used in the digital story. Typically, a last slide/image can be dedicated to listing of the copyrighted material.

Participants sign a consent form at the time of submission indicating that the digital story submitted does not infringe upon or violate the rights of any third party. Furthermore, the participants release DISTCO, its officers, directors, employees, sponsors, licensees and successors from any liability or claimed liability in connection with the contest submission.

*This includes listing of all **multimedia** (images, sound, and video) and **story** (script) items as taken from a specific website/source. When citing specific URLs or Web addresses for multimedia or story, you may shorten the address by including only the domain name as seen in example below.*

SAMPLE CREDITS SLIDE/IMAGE

CREDITS

Story: Effects of Climate Change by Time Magazine,
http://www.time.com/time/interactive/0,31813,1620995,00.html

_____

Image 1 (or Flower 1): http://images.fanpop.com/images/image_uploads/Flower-Wallpaper-flowers-249402_1024_768.jpg

Image 2 (or Flower 2): https://static.pexels.com/photos/36475/pansy-flowers-purple-nature.jpg

OR

(shortened URL with domain name only)

Image 1 (or Flower 1): http://www.fanpop.com

Image 2 (or Flower 2): https://static.pexels.com

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Soundtrack: One Step Beyond by Karsh Kale

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Digital Stories should be **original work** and not to be copied from any other person or person's work unless obtained with permission.

DISTCO MANUAL

EVALUATIONS

There are two types of evaluation methods in DISTCO: Official Judging and Popular Voting.

The official judging takes place after the submissions close. Please see timeline above for details. Official judging is done by a group of faculty members at North American University and various other universities according to the criteria in Digital Storytelling Rubric.

In order to increase the popularity of the contest, a popular voting is conducted over our Youtube channel taking place during the Evaluations period. Public can vote for Digital Stories by clicking the "Like" button during this time frame. The results are based on Likes only, not Views or Dislikes. If foul-play is determined, digital stories will be disqualified from the contest*

*Any fraud involving such as buying Youtube Likes will result in disqualification. Sudden overnight increases in the numbers of Likes may be considered as a fraud.

AWARDS

Please see a complete list of categories and AWARDS CEREMONY here.

In order to claim awards, students must attend DISTCO Award ceremony which will be held at University of Houston, Houston, TX. Please see Timeline for the date and time of this event.

Claiming Grand Prizes:

In order to claim awards, students must attend DISTCO Award ceremony which will be held at University of Houston, Houston, TX. Please see Timeline for the date and time of this event. Visit AWARDS CEREMONY page to learn more about how to claim your Award.

Grand Prizes can be picked up at the Award Ceremony in University of Houston by the winners or a designated person (The winner should give written consent to the designated person by filling out Award Claim Form and submit it by its deadline). In the case of not being able to attend the ceremony at all, either the winner or the designated person, the Award Claim Form should still be submitted by its deadline. Failure to submit the Award Claim Form will result in unclaimed award.

After the successful submission of the form, winner or a designated person will have 15 calendar days to pick up their reward from the University after the award ceremony. If the grand prizes are not picked up at the end of this period, they will be considered unclaimed.

- iPads and iPods may be sent to "out-of-state winners" by mail upon submission of the absentee form by its deadline date*. *Texas residents need to attend the ceremony or designate a person by using Award Claim Form to receive their iPad or iPod nano rewards.*
- Monetary Gift Cards may be sent to "non-Houston residents" by mail* upon submission of the absentee form by its deadline date. Houston *residents need to attend the ceremony or designate a person by using Award Claim Form to receive their monetary gift card rewards.*

<u>Claiming Category or Scholarship Awards:</u>

Scholarship certificates will be given to the winners in the award ceremony or they will be mailed along with rewards upon successful completion of Award Claim Form.

*The DISTCO is not responsible for any lost item in the mail. The participant is solely responsible for providing accurate information regarding the address and phone number when signing up to the DISTCO website. Returning users in the DISTCO website are also responsible for updating any address changes in the system. In the case of lost item or inaccurate address information, the DISTCO won't be reissuing the rewards.

<u>Award Claim Forms turned in after its deadline will not be accepted.</u>