E-Stories

Digital Storytelling in Supporting Immigrant University Students Language and Technology Use Skills

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WP3

Tools and Technologies for Digital Storytelling

For Teachers

Necmettin Erbakan University

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Tools and Technologies for Digital Storytelling

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Tools and Technologies for Digital Storytelling

1. Introduction

- Do you believe that digital storytelling is important in education, more specifically language teaching?
- Do you need to find out some creative and powerful ways to help your students with language learning or teaching any subjects?
- In this module, you will find digital storytelling tools, both websites and apps, which will assist you with tools and technologies to help your students write or tell a story while fostering their imagination and creativity and having fun.
- Such multimedia tools will also promote students' engagement by appealing to diverse learning styles in the classroom and making information more meaningful and clear (Bouchrika, 2024).

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2. Multimedia Creation Tools

- Multimedia use involves the ability to bring text, visuals, audio, and video altogether in the same instructional design, application, or Web site.
- Teachers' ability to create and utilize multimedia content is a critical component of their overall **technological proficiency** in both teaching and facilitating learning.

Effectively integrating multimedia into lessons not only enhances **student engagement** across diverse learning styles but also plays a vital role in ensuring **accessibility** and **inclusion**, particularly for students with disabilities such as those who are hearing or sight impaired.

In this module, you will get introduced with several practical tools for multimedia creation.



Image from Pixabay

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2. Multimedia Creation Tools

- **Canva is** s a free, all-in-one design platform, offering a suite of tools that enhance teaching and learning through visual communication and collaboration.

- **Benefits for Teachers**

Free Access with Premium Features (for K-12 teachers)

Time-Saving Templates

Enhanced Student Engagement

Collaboration and Learning Management Systems (LMS) Integration

Professional Development Opportunities



Image from Pixabay

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2. Multimedia Creation Tools

- Through **Canva**, teachers can create

- instructional materials (i.e. lesson plans, presentations, worksheets, graphic organizers, and infographics)
- classroom management tools (i.e. class schedules, behaviour charts, attendance lists)
- communication tools (i.e. newsletters, players & posters, and visual announcements)
- student-centred resources (i.e. certificates, bookmarks & flashcards, and interactive worksheets)
- professional development (i.e. portfolios, resumes & cover letters)

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2. Multimedia Creation Tools

VideoScribe is a whiteboard animation tool that brings learning to life by turning concepts into animated, visual stories so that teacher can transform static content into more memorable one.

VideoScribe can be a powerful tool for teachers, offering such creative ways of delivery:

- animated lesson summaries or introductions,
- step-by-step problem-solving guides (e.g., math or science),
- storytelling for language or history lessons,
- video instructions for projects or homework,
- motivational or classroom rules videos,
- digital morning announcements or subject teasers.



Image from Pixabay

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2. Multimedia Creation Tools

VoiceThread brings a personal, interactive element to digital learning by allowing teachers to post video prompts that students respond to with their own recordings.

It also fosters classroom community and offers a comfortable space for all students, including shy ones, to share their voice and ideas confidently.

Teachers can produce such instructional materials with VideoThread:

- post video prompts for discussion or reflection (e.g., “What’s your opinion on...?”),
- facilitating peer-to-peer feedback or group project check-ins,
- creating oral assessments or comprehension checks,
- using teacher-recorded videos in language classes for pronunciation and fluency practice,
- setting up digital book talks, science reflections, or history debates.

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3. Storyboarding & Planning Apps

You have a lesson idea to teach and bring to life. **Storyboarding and planning tools** can help you turn that idea into a structured, engaging learning experience in the following ways:

1. **Organize Your Lesson Flow**

- Break your lesson into clear segments or activities, so you know what comes first, next, and last.

2. **Visualize the Learning Experience**

- Think of it as a "comic strip" of your lesson—helping you see how each part will look and feel before you deliver it.

3. **Save Time During Instruction**

- A solid plan upfront means less last-minute adjusting. You'll avoid confusion, stay on track, and make the most of your class time.

4. **Improve Collaboration**

- Planning visually makes it easier to share ideas with colleagues or co-teachers and align on learning goals.

5. **Spark New Ideas**

- Sketching or mapping out your approach can unlock creative teaching strategies you might not have considered otherwise.

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3. Storyboarding & Planning Apps

- StoryboardThat is a **drag-and-drop storyboard creation tool** that allows you to build comic-style narratives using customizable characters, scenes, and dialogue.
- It's especially helpful for **lesson planning, visual instructions, and student projects**. Ideal for **ESL classrooms, special education, and diverse learners**, it supports multiple learning styles by making storytelling more visual and accessible.



Image from Storyboard hat

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3. Storyboarding & Planning Apps

- Storybird offers a library of **beautiful, artist-created illustrations** to inspire students to write poems, stories, and picture books.

- As a teacher, you can use it to **spark creativity and guide students through the writing process**.
- It's particularly effective for **young or reluctant writers**, and supports **visual learning** while building confidence in written expression.



Image from Storybird

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3. Storyboarding & Planning Apps

StoryboardThat and Storybird **enhance** students' learning by;

- Supporting their visual thinking,
- improving their narrative skills,
- boosting their creativity and expression,
- aiding them in comprehension and retention,
- also being inclusive for diverse learners.



Image from Pixabay

StoryboardThat and Storybird **can allow** teachers to create these:

- comic-style lesson summaries,
- visual guides for processes,
- historical timelines,
- grammar-focused visual panels,
- creative writing prompts with visual cues,
- genre-specific writing tasks,
- differentiated story templates,
- multimodal assessment tools.

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4. Interactive Storytelling Platforms

Interactive storytelling platforms empower teachers to design lessons where **students don't just consume content—they interact with it**. These tools allow educators to create experiences where learners make choices, explore multiple pathways, and even influence outcomes—transforming passive learning into active discovery.

For teachers, these platforms offer:

- **Creative flexibility** in structuring lessons and assessments,
- Opportunities to build **decision-making** and **critical thinking** into activities**,**
- **Engaging formats** that boost student motivation and participation,
- **Dynamic instructional content** that feels more like an experience than a task.

Tools and Technologies for Digital Storytelling

4. Interactive Storytelling Platforms

Twine is a powerful platform for creating **nonlinear, text-based interactive stories**, making it perfect for lessons that involve **creative writing, decision-making, and logical thinking**.

As a teacher, you can guide students to design:

- a “choose-your-own-ending” version of a classic story ,
- an interactive timeline or historical event explorer,
- a digital escape room with clues and puzzles,
- a survival simulation game – encouraging problem-solving and storytelling,
- “What Would You Do?” ethics scenarios or reflective thinking exercises.

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4. Interactive Storytelling Platforms

Genially is an all-in-one platform for creating **visually engaging, multimedia-rich presentations**—perfect for making learning content more interactive and student-centered.

With Genially, you can guide students to design:

- an interactive poster or infographic to explain science topics or processes,
- a virtual museum exhibit on themes like Ancient Egypt, ecosystems, or space exploration,
- an interactive book report featuring character maps, plot summaries, and visual analysis,
- a gamified quiz or review game to reinforce classroom concepts in a fun way,
- an explorable timeline filled with clickable events, images, and facts.

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5. Mobile-Friendly Tools

Mobile-friendly tools empower teachers to **create, edit, and share instructional stories** using just a smartphone or tablet—making lesson design more flexible and accessible than ever.



Image from Pixabay

These tools allow you to:

- **Develop engaging video or visual content** on the go,
- **Support student storytelling projects anytime, anywhere,**
- **Easily integrate media into digital classrooms or social learning platforms**,

InShot, **CapCut**, and **Adobe Spark Post** are featured here because they are **user-friendly yet powerful**, work seamlessly across multiple devices, and help teachers foster both **digital literacy** and **creative expression**—for themselves and their students.

With these tools, your mobile device becomes a **complete storytelling studio**, right in your pocket.

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InShot is great for quick, clean **video editing** on mobile.

Perfect for

- vlogs,
- storytelling,
- book trailers,
- mini-documentaries.

CapCut offers **advanced effects and transitions**.

ideal for

- short films,
- social-media-style stories,
- Short videos with cinematic effects.



Image from Pixabay

Adobe Spark Post: Focuses on **visual storytelling through graphics**.

Great for

- posters,
- book covers,
- quote cards,
- story slides.

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6. Summary

As educators, we now have access to a powerful set of digital tools that make storytelling more engaging, inclusive, and creative than ever. From planning lessons with storyboarding apps to producing multimedia-rich content and guiding students through interactive, mobile-friendly storytelling—these tools support both instruction and innovation.

- They help us:
- Design visually organized and accessible learning materials,
- Foster creativity, narrative thinking, and student voices,
- Offer flexible, differentiated learning experiences,
- Build community through collaboration and multimedia expression,
- Bring stories to life—whether in the classroom, online, or on-the-go

Digital storytelling isn't just about technology—it's about making learning more human, personal, and powerful.

References

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