

## **In-Class Activity: Create a Practice Digital Story (45 minutes)**

Tonight we are going to practice creating a brief digital story as a warm-up for your digital story assignment. Please use your PowerPoint to create the story; we are not focusing on motion yet, so photos will work. Some suggestions:

- Make a story about a procedure or process
  - “baking a cake”
  - “safety in the lab”
  - “chrysalis into butterfly”
- Make a story based on a well-known story, but add your own twist
- Make a story about an animal, highlighting its habitat and habits

In groups of 3-4, follow the steps for creating a digital story based on the example given to you in class (Dominoe). We won't limit your story length, but please keep it reasonable—this is only a practice.

First we will review a few features in PowerPoint; there are some materials in Blackboard to help.

**Step 1:** Sketch out a storyboard. Brainstorm before drawing; for example, how will you chose to break up the story? Which scenes will be cut or shortened? Which will be emphasized and why? How much text will you use? Will you use speech bubbles or narration text boxes?

- You can revise your storyboards by cutting up the squares and moving them around. If you chose post-its, this is even easier.
- Spend ample time on the storyboard itself

**Step 2:** Find your media: pictures, illustrations, photos, clipart... You can use the cameras if you'd like to use real-life objects and people. For example, let's say you would like to produce a digital story on how to behave in class. You can use the camera to take pictures of classmates in your group acting both inappropriately and appropriately. Next, you can sequence those photos to tell a story of what 1.) what is and is not appropriate classroom behavior or 2.) the consequences of such behavior. On the other hand, you could also use computer-generated art to tell the same story. You can search the Internet or use your own cloud-stored photos.

**Step 3:** Explore the various features of PowerPoint. Will you animate objects in your story? Will you use narrative? Music or sounds?

**Step 4:** Create your digital story. Attach your story to the In-Class Discussion Board, “Digital Stories.”

**Step 5:** Present your story to the class. (If time allows)