

A FILM BY KEN BURNS
THE NATIONAL PARKS
America's Best Idea

GATHERING THE MEDIA FOR YOUR DIGITAL STORY

THE SCRIPT

Think short. 150–200 words, two or three paragraphs.

A digital story finds its best form in the personal narrative, making frequent use of the first person voice. Digital stories often tell of transformation: “I was this person [description], then this happened [event], and because of that, I am now a different person. Let me tell you about the difference [transformation].”

THE VISUALS

Select, say, 20 pictures, although 10 will easily do the heavy lifting for your piece. If you'd like to use video, pull out five clips, about 30 seconds each, and upload them to your computer. Don't waste class or workshop time reviewing hundreds of hours of video.

THE MUSIC

A good rule of thumb is to choose instrumental music that evokes the overall feeling of your piece. Bring your music in on computer or on CD. Beware of the complexities of pulling songs from your iPod and iTunes.

NEXT STEPS

Having collected your media, it's time to start editing.

The Tier 3 edcasts and the associated step-by-step quick guides will move you through the process of “making” a place-based digital story.