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**THE NATIONAL PARKS**  
**America's Best Idea**

**Quick Guide to  
PLACE-BASED DIGITAL STORYTELLING OVERVIEW**

This quick guide should be used in conjunction with the educast *Place-Based Digital Storytelling Overview*. These materials explain the five-step process for place-based digital storytelling and provide participants with the intellectual and technical skills necessary to independently create and “place” their digital stories. In addition, we’ve included some of our favorite quotes on why story matters.

**1. Finding the Experience**

We start with an appreciative inquiry approach to find meaningful experiences while we explore story styles and the power of personal narrative. Then we facilitate a “re-storying” process that encourages reflection around the experience for a deeper understanding of how our stories define who we are and how we walk through the world.

**2. Telling the Story**

Once we have “found” the story, we explore the best way to tell that story. This includes writing the voiceover script in a way that works digitally so as to take advantage of the intricacies of voice, using tone, diction, volume and inflection as powerful tools for creative expression.

**3. Creating the Piece**

The third step is all hands-on production. Editing begins by the melding of audio and visuals using digital video editing software, like iMovie or Windows MovieMaker. After creating a rough cut, we add special effects, transitions and titles to get to our final draft. As every artist knows, the process of creation is transformative: We become producers of multimedia, not just consumers.

**4. Publishing the Work**

We publish the stories to a variety of platforms: CDs, authored DVDs and video-sharing sites on the Web. After creating the stories, we assess how best to use these stories: for learning, for social activism, for program development or as tools for reflection.

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### 5. Geo-Tagging to Place

Using geo-applications like Google Earth and Google Maps, we connect people to place directly, intimately and with immediacy. Conveying information, historical experiences and knowledge experientially, we hope to provide an experience that facilitates connection and stewardship between communities and their outdoor spaces.

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### ***INSPIRING QUOTES TO HELP GET STARTED WITH “STORYING”***

*We listen to and tell others stories all day, every day. Here are some quotes to remind us how deep and broad and integral story and storytelling are in our lives. Understanding the stories of our lives helps us better understand how and why we walk through the world in the way that we do.*

The tales we cherish ... are tools for making sense of our journey.

*Dan Yashinsky*

Although setbacks of all kinds may discourage us, the grand, old process of storytelling puts us in touch with strengths we may have forgotten, with wisdom that has faded or disappeared, and with hopes that have fallen into darkness.

*Nancy Mellon*

In my life, the stories I have heard from my family, my friends, my community and from willing strangers all over the world have been the true source of my education. They have taught me humor, compassion and courage.

*Holly Near*

Hearing and telling stories about their own family and heritage helps kids figure out how they fit in—at home and in the world.

*Holly George-Warren*

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Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. The friends who listen to us are the ones we move toward and want to sit in their radius. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand.

*Karl Menniger*

We are here to hand one another on.

*Walker Percy*

I may omit or transpose facts, or make mistakes in dates. But I cannot go wrong about what I felt or what my feelings have led me to do; and these are the chief subjects of my story.

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

And the trouble is, if you don't risk anything, you risk even more.

*Erica Jong*

To speak is to sow; to listen is to reap.

*Turkish Proverb*

Every story you tell is your own story.

*Joseph Campbell*

Communication between mortals is immortal.

*Boris Pasternak*

He who knows others is learned/He who knows himself is wise.

*Lao-tse*

All sorrows can be borne if you put them into a story or tell a story about them.

*Isak Dinesen*

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Even a lie is a psychic fact.

*Carl Jung*

Anybody who has survived his childhood has enough information about life to last him the rest of his days.

*Flannery O'Connor*

For the most part, artists work out of the first 10 years of their memory.

*Willa Cather*

The truth is more important than the facts.

*Frank Lloyd Wright*

To hear the voices of our own genius, you must learn to silence the competing voice.

*Tom Cowan*

Whatever their nature, stories begin—and have always begun—quite simply: with a moment, an experience, a feeling.

*Unknown*

The present is only a moment, and the past is one long story. Those who don't tell stories and don't hear stories live only for the moment, and that isn't enough.

*I.B. Singer*

Telling someone about your experience breathes new life into it, moving it out of the swirl of unconsciousness into reality. It takes form and allows us to examine it from all sides.

*Mandy Aftel*

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In oneself lies the whole world, and if you know how to look and learn, then the door is there and the key is in your hand. Nobody on Earth can give you either the key or the door to open, except yourself.

*J. Krishnamurti*

The questions which one asks oneself begin, at last, to illuminate the world and become one's key to the experience of others.

*James Baldwin*

Stories are a history—of a sort. ... This does not mean that stories lie, but rather that they look at humanity's history obliquely, through slotted eyes. Emily Dickinson once wrote something to that effect: "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant."

*Jane Yolens*

Memory is a complicated thing, a relative to truth, but not its twin.

*Barbara Kingsolver*

Creative minds have always been known to survive any kind of bad training.

*Anna Freud*

Stories knit together the realities of past and future, of dreamed and intended moments. They teach us how we perceive and why we wonder.

*Joan Halifax*

We are all more complicated than we appear to be, even the ones whom everyone makes fun of or pities, and all we ask—all we need—is the chance to say our piece and tell who we are.

*Sesame Street Parents, July 1994*

*Garrison Keillor*

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The real difference between telling what happened and telling a story about what happened is that instead of being a victim of our past, we become a master of it. ... We can't change our past, but we can change where we stand when we look at it.

*Donald Davis*

To believe your own thought, to believe what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men—that is genius.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Those who do not have power over the story that dominates their lives, power to retell it, rethink it, deconstruct it, joke about it and change it as times change, truly are powerless, because they cannot think new thoughts.

*Salman Rushdie*

Truth does not mean factual (though it may be factual); true means accurately reflecting human experience. ... In the presence of a true story, we say, "Yes, this is how it feels; this is how it would happen; this is what one might think."

*Daniel Taylor*

In the degree that we remember and retell our stories and create new ones, we become the authors—authors of our own lives.

*Unknown*

Every living person is a partial revelation of the truth.

*Gandhi*

He led a double life. Did that make him a liar? He did not feel a liar. He was a man of two truths.

*Iris Murdoch*

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I am going through the hardest thing, also the greatest thing, for any human being to do; accept that which is already within you and around you.

*Malcolm X*

The life that you led doesn't need to be the only life you have. Or the life that you are destined to lead.

*Anna Quindlen*

The most important question we can ask is: What myth am I living?

*C.G. Jung*

Through stories, we reach across the rifts not only of gender and age, but also of race and creed, geography and class, even the rifts between species or between enemies.

*Scott Russell Sanders*

To say the king died and then the queen died is not a story. To say the king died and then the queen died of grief, now that's a story.

*E.M. Forester*

The real voyage of discovery lies not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.

*Marcel Proust*

The most beautiful music of all is the music of what happens.

*Irish Proverb*

Some people think we're made of flesh and blood and bones. Scientists say we're made of atoms. But I think we are made of stories. When we die, that's what people remember, the stories of our lives and the stories that we told.

*Ruth Stotter*

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Become aware of what is in you. Announce it, pronounce it, produce it and give birth to it.

*Meister Eckhart*

All paths lead to the same goal: to convey to others what we are. And we must pass through solitude and difficulty, isolation and silence, in order to reach forth to the enchanted place where we can dance our clumsy dance and sing our sorrowful song—but in this dance or in this song, there are fulfilled the most ancient rites of our conscience in the awareness of being human and of believing in our common destiny.

*Pablo Neruda*

We create stories and stories create us. It is a rondo.

*Chinua Achebe*

Storytelling is where we share what we've discovered; all of us have discovered a little secret about life.

*Michael Cotter*

A story must be judged according to whether it makes sense. And “making sense” must ... be understood in its most direct meaning; to make sense is to enliven the senses.

*David Abram*

Creativity is not the finding of a thing, but the making something out of it after it is found.

*James Russell Lowell*

Read no history: nothing but biography, for that is life without theory.

*Benjamin Disraeli*

We are the hero of our own story.

*Mary McCarthy*