



Digital Storytelling: A Novel, Interactive Approach to Palliative Care Education

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What Is Digital Storytelling?

- Short, first-person personal stories shared from the "heart"
- Multimedia narratives that combine photographs, video, animation, sound, music, text, and often a narrative voice

Why Digital Storytelling?

- "power of the narrative, is actually creating a framework that our mind seems to understand"
-- John Seely Brown
- The process of creating, sharing, and discussing digital stories can be a bridge linking abstract concepts to personal experiences, which overall enhances the learning experience.
- Prior research has lacked connections to learning science theories that can guide the implementation, intervention, and evaluation of learning with digital stories.



Research Questions

- Does the process of digital storytelling enhance learning about palliative care concepts?
- How does sharing and peer feedback of digital stories impact the students learning experience?
- What are the essential elements of information technology needed to support the digital storytelling process?

Research Site and Plan

- Senior-level undergraduate students enrolled in "Nursing Care of Patients with Complex Needs and Transition to Practice" (N = 138)
- Digital storytelling assignment was used to apply Palliative Care and End-of-Life concepts to a personal story
- Pre and post surveys
- VoiceThread® for creating and sharing stories
- Peer commenting and ranking

Learning Impact

Affective and non-cognitive learning:

- Students embraced the "personal" nature of palliative care--both for themselves and for their patients

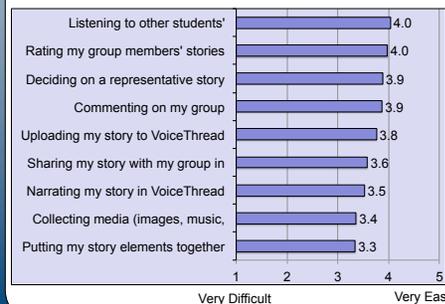
Cognitive Learning

- Students knowledge pre/post survey increased significantly*
- Questions with significant improvement*
- Assessment and treatment of dyspnea
- Family education of end-of-life symptom management **p* < .05

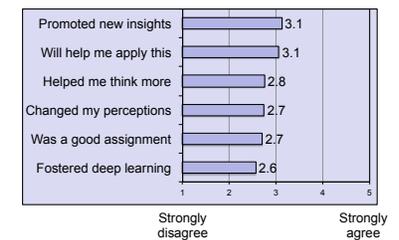
Communication skills:

- Presentation and department
- Peer feedback
- Knowledge sharing with Technology

Ease of Digital Storytelling Assignment



Value of Digital Storytelling Assignment



Lessons Learned

- Clear directions, examples, ample project completion time, and technology support required
- Creative work requires innovative grading scales and processes
- Students enjoy peer feedback; some have difficulty giving constructive criticism

Future Work

- Improve understanding of affective and non-cognitive learning
- Improve understanding of how to measure the depth of learning
- Improved teaching effectiveness of inter-professional communication skills