Digital stories help students find their "voice."

People love to hear and tell stories. Students share stories about their families, friends, favorites, and travels. It's been said "everyone has a story to tell." Digital storytelling gives children the opportunity to reflect on their experiences and use their imaginations.

Up until now digital storytelling has been too technical for many students and teachers to successfully accomplish. By using the templates and resources in this kit, schoolchildren of almost any age can tell their stories through images, text and sound and share their stories with others.

**Award Winning Digital Storytelling Projects** is a toolkit that makes it easy for students to create digital stories and helps teachers implement digital storytelling into their classrooms. The templates cover a wide variety of grade levels, curriculum areas and writing styles. The stories can be built in a wide variety of video or slideshow editing software.

**Grades 2-Adult. All subjects**

**Benefits:**
- Develops reading and writing skills
- Enhances creativity
- Fosters knowledge management
- Develops visual literacy skills
- Develops technology skills
- Work can be tied to national standards
- Fosters presentation skills
- Provides an audience for student writing
- Fun and motivational
- Provides a good outlet for personal expression and can be therapeutic

**Features:**
- More than two dozen "digital story starter" templates covering a wide range of curriculum areas and writing styles
- Student worksheets and teacher lesson plans to accompany each digital story starter
- Resource folders of images, music and sound effects
- Ten step model for developing a digital story
- Chapter on production and project management tips
- Rubrics for evaluating digital stories

**The project instructions are generic enough that they can be used with a variety of software including:** iMovie, Corel VideoStudio, Adobe Premiere Elements, Photoshop Elements, Microsoft Photo Story, MovieMaker or PowerPoint.

**Compatibility:** CD-ROM contents readable by both Mac and Windows computer systems. Create the digital stories with your existing video or slideshow editing software (free and trial versions included on CD). Template use the free Adobe reader program to be filled out with.

**Dr. Arnie Abrams**
Ashland, Oregon
Dr. Abrams is professor of Educational Technology and director of the Applied Multimedia program at Southern Oregon University, where he has taught for 25 years. He regularly speaks at conferences across the country. He is also the author of:

- **Portfolio Builder 3 for PowerPoint**
- **Award-Winning Digital Video Projects**
- **Award-Winning Digital Photography Projects**
- **Learn Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 in a Day**
- **Learn Adobe Photoshop Elements in a Day**
- **Learn Adobe Premiere Elements in a Day**
- **Learn Apple iMovie HD in a Day**
- **Learn Digital Photography in a Day**

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# Award Winning Digital Storytelling Projects

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## The Project Templates:

1. All About Me ......................... A multimedia autobiography
2. Family History Video Essay ..... Profile your cultural heritage
3. Word Builders ...................... A story about a new vocabulary word
4. Digital Diary......................... Photojournalism assignment
6. Creativity ......................... An expository essay
7. Tell a Tale ......................... Make up a fairy tale
8. Phoetry ............................. Illustrate a poem
9. No Words ......................... Tell a story using just pictures
10. My Report ......................... Create a report on any topic
11. Create an Ad ......................... Sell a product or persuade people into action
12. Make a Difference ................ Document a local problem
13. Vocabulary Builders ............... Tell a story using new vocabulary words
14. Take a Trip ......................... Recount a fieldtrip or other trip you've been on
15. Guess Who ......................... Give 8 clues about a person you are profiling
16. Special Person ....................... Write about the most interesting person you've met
17. Special Place ....................... Write about a place you've been or want to visit
18. Special Thing ....................... Share a story about an object that has special meaning to you
19. How To ............................... Explain how to do something step-by-step
20. Creature Features ................. Write a story about a non-human character, real or mythical
Award Winning Digital Storytelling Projects

Detailed table of contents:

1. Overview – Benefits, Goals and Features
   a. Overview
   b. The projects explained
   c. List of templates
   d. Benefits of this kit
   e. Student goals
   f. Curricular applications of digital storytelling
   g. Visual literacy skills
   h. Key features
   i. Audience
   j. File and folder resources
   k. System requirements
   l. Installation instructions

2. Defining Digital Storytelling
   a. Storytelling traditions
   b. Writing styles and genres

3. Getting Started
   a. Instructions for teachers
   b. The example stories explained
   c. Instructions for students
   d. A ten step development model for building a digital story

4. Award Winning Digital Storytelling Projects Templates
   a. How to use the Award Winning Digital Storytelling Projects templates
   b. The templates
   c. List of national subject area standards addressed
   d. National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) addressed

5. Background Information on Digital Storytelling
   a. Why does digital storytelling matter?
   b. Educational benefits and applications of digital storytelling
   c. Student goals
   d. Research findings on digital storytelling
   e. Action research and digital storytelling
   f. Thinking visually – developing visual literacy skills
   g. Ways to use digital storytelling in the classroom
   h. Things to look at in evaluating digital storytelling
i. Digital storytelling rubrics
j. What are the challenges of doing digital storytelling?
k. A few words about copyright
l. What is the future of digital storytelling?

6. Software for Producing Digital Stories
   a. Image editing software
   b. Natural media paint programs
   c. Slideshow software
   d. Video editing software
   e. Audio software
   f. Storing, sharing and distributing digital story files
   g. Making digital storytelling interactive

7. Teaching Ideas and Project Management Tips
   a. Helping students to create digital stories
   b. Writing prompts
   c. Making it easier (the planning process)
   d. Making it easier (recording audio)
   e. Making it easier (production)
   f. Things to look at (evaluation)
   g. Classroom challenges
   h. An effective tool for teachers

8. Web Links and Other Resources
   a. Digital storytelling websites
   b. Online examples of digital stories
   c. Print references and resources
   d. Classes and workshops

9. Writing Your Digital Story
   a. Steps in developing a written story
   b. Things to consider when planning and writing
   c. Getting the story started
   d. Steps in developing a digital story
   e. A 10-step model for producing a digital story

10. Technical Tips for Producing Your Digital Story
    a. Storyboarding
    b. Create a space for your files
    c. Working with still pictures
    d. Working with video
    e. Working with audio
    f. A model for getting started
g. Making a story interactive
h. Reviewing the production
i. Saving and exporting the project
j. Presenting the story
k. Conclusion

11. VideoStudio X2 tutorial

CD Contents:

_Award Winning Digital Storytelling Projects_ includes a CD-ROM with templates and a book with the following components:

- Over two dozen “digital story starter” templates covering a wide range of curriculum areas and writing styles. Student worksheets and teacher lesson plans in PDF and Word formats to accompany each digital story starter.
- Resource folders of hundreds of images, music and sound effects that can be used in the digital story starter projects.
- A folder with five completed sample digital stories in both WMV and FLV file formats.
- A tutorial for building a digital story with Corel VideoStudio, including a folder of files to work with.
- A ten step model for developing a digital story.
- An extensive chapter on background information on digital storytelling.
- A chapter on production and project management tips.
- Rubrics for evaluating digital stories.
- A Word file with clickable links to find more information on digital storytelling.

Compatibility:

The contents of the CD-ROM are readable by both Macintosh and Windows computer systems. You can create the digital stories with your existing video or slideshow editing software (you can download a trial version of Corel VideoStudio at www.corel.com). The project templates can be filled out with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program (available for downloading at www.adobe.com).