**Explore the meaning of "social inclusion" through Storytelling**

A Digital Story is a first-person narrative in the form of a 2-3-minute video, that combines the voice-over of the storyteller with personal images or other visual materials produced or collected during a workshop. The process we are referring to consists in a well-established methodology both in academia and arts practitioner/community development worlds.

Its hybrid nature, combining narrative processes and technical applications to develop the final output, makes it a powerful and flexible tool that can find application in several fields.

We are inviting you here to trial Digital Storytelling and work in small groups or by yourself to explore the meaning of “**social inclusion**”.

To help you make your Digital Story we published a collection on the **Smithsonian Learning Lab** that you can access via this QR code:



You will find here some prompts and tips to practice storyboarding techniques as well as think about the links between various views on Cultural Diversity.

Each tile of the Learning Lab collection contains additional information on the process. To access it, please, click on the ‘i’ icon on the top left.

**Instructions**

**Step 1**

To kick-off the Storytelling activity, we have selected some images from the Smithsonian Learning Lab collections linked to the theme**"Social Inclusion"** (these are the first 16 tiles in the collection).

Pick one of them and then share with the group or draft a few notes about the reasons of your choice.

If you are facilitating the workshop, we suggest printing copies of those images and asking participants to stand next to the image that triggers the most emotional reactions and reflections. Depending on the size of the group, you can ask participants to explain their choice to the whole group or to have small-group discussions with the other people who made the same choice.

**Step 2**

Download the 17th tile of the collection: it is a summary on Culture and Diversity. Read it carefully, because it will be helpful to make your story on social inclusion.

If you are facilitating the workshop, give participants time to ask you questions and/or share reflections on the concept and structure of this summary.

**Step 3**

Watch the 3 examples provided in the collection (tiles 18th to 20th): these are 3 videos made to show different ways in which storytelling has been applied to reflect on social inclusion. The second and the third videos are what we could define a “digital story”: a 2-minute video which combines personal images with a voice-over edited by the storyteller.

**Step 4**

Download the storyboard template that you’ll find in the collection (tile number 22). You’ll find 3 different prompts that mirror the three possible scenarios of social inclusion described in the summary on Cultural Diversity: **Separation**, **Acculturation**, **Integration**.

Pick one of them and start developing your story arc in the 4 blocks on the template and try to use in the first block as a beginning/context for your story the image from the Smithsonian Learning Lab that you’ve chosen during the step number 1 of this creative process. You can draw and write a description for each of the 4 scenes (beginning, inciting incident, resolution, end).

**Step 5**

You have now three options:

* Take a picture of your storyboard
* Record a voice-over to share your story (no longer than 2/3 minutes that corresponds usually to a 250-word script) and combine it in a video with your storyboard
* Make your digital story in which you edit your voice-over with some images (including the storyboard).

If you decide to make a digital story, we suggest using the cloud-based video-editing software wevideo. You will find on the website plenty of tutorials that will enable you to edit your story in a very short time.

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