**WSTD10/HISD25**

**Preparing Your Digital Story Narrative: What Story Do You Want to Tell?**

**Assignment: Digital story narrative text**

**Due: November 1 (first draft – bring 2 hard copies to class);**

**November 15 (Upload to course Blackboard site (not the course management site where the Reflections have been posted)**

**Length: Ideal is 350 words. Accepted range: 300-400 words in total (absolute maximum. This includes the voices of your interview participants.). Final digital project ideally is to be approximately 3.5 minutes. (That is, 210 seconds). It must not go over 240 seconds.**

**Value: 20%**

Your interviews have now been completed and the next step is preparing your ‘digital story narrative’ – a 300-400 word written narrative about the interview conducted. Preparing the narrative you want to tell will happen in progressive steps over the next several weeks.

**Week 7 (Oct. 25)**: Through a series of guided exercises, students will tell their narrator’s story to other students and identify key themes and issues shared by the narrator. As a class we will discuss your interpretations of the story within the individual’s life and within the context of Scarborough. Guest Prof. Atiqa Hachimi will discuss issues of power and language. Guest Librarian Whitney Kemble will discuss strategies for identifying applicable sources to set the context for your narrative text. Both these presentations will offer ideas for framing your narrative.

**Week 8 (Nov. 1):** Draft narrative text of 300-400 words due. Instead of a title, include a two-three sentence explanation of the approach you will be taking in the narrative text. For example: *I will be telling the story of 27 year-old Amina who moved to Scarborough from Afghanistan in 1997 when she was 8 years old. The story will focus on some of the gender role expectations she experienced by her parents and the problems she had with that and how she has dealt with it. This resonated with me and I will be contextualizing her story within my own story of conflicts about gender based expectations*. You will be sharing your draft texts with other students and workshopping further ideas. You will be learning how to upload your interview to the archive. Bring your laptops or other devices.

**Week 9 (Nov. 8):** Draft narrative text will be returned with feedback. You have another week to redraft and prepare your final version.

You will be begin preparation of your ‘storyboard’ – a written plan or ‘map’ for the images, sound and credits you will add to your narrative text. The storyboard is both a plan and an analysis of ***why*** you have made those choices. (The storyboard is a major assignment for the course and is worth 25%. Assignment details will be distributed closer to the due date.)

**Week 10 (Nov. 15):** Your final narrative text is due. You should record it before the class. It will then be uploaded it to the Adobe Spark platform, to be explained in class.

Your draft storyboard is due. (Note there was a typo in the course outline which had two different dates. Nov. 15 is accurate for the due date for the draft. November 29 for the final.)

**Considerations for the preparing the 300-400 word narrative (including the words of your interview participant):**

* Preparing your digital narrative is about finding the essence and the meaning of the story you want to tell. Keep in mind the focus is on both issues of gender and Scarborough. For students in HISD25 in particular, there is a focus on change over time. How do those two course priorities intersect in the narrator’s experience?
* You can take a number of different approaches to the story. These include, but are not limited to:
  + Telling the life story of your interview participant in relation to gender and Scarborough
  + Telling the story of your interview participant and the impact the story/the person had on you
  + Focusing on one specific story within the interview participant’s
  + Other? Ask your professor.
* What is/are the key themes, main message, essence of the story, or point of your you want to express?
  + What’s the story you want to tell? Then, What do you think your story means? (We want to hear not just what the story is about in its descriptive, obvious sense, but what it’s *really* about – it’s meaning to the narrator and/or to you.)
  + Did the narrator express any emotions? Did you feel any emotions hearing the story? What were they and how might they fit ( or not) into writing the narrative text?
  + Once you become clear about the meaning of the story, is there a particular ‘moment’ or example in the interview that illustrates this insight?
  + (Questions above adapted from Digital Storytelling Cookbook, Joe Lambert, et al. Digital Diner Press, 2010)
* What is the best way to get your point across in under 400 words (including the words of the interview participant)?
* What understanding of the past and/or present do you think should be told?
* Your interpretation will be reflected in how you choose to the story. What is your perspective, interpretation or ‘take’ on the narrative that you want to present?
* Assessment will be based on: clarity and focus of the message, coherence and flow of ideas; depth of insight and understanding