

Using the “Two column story table” approach to storyboarding

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Using story tables is my preferred approach to storyboarding. Following the story mapping and scripting parts of the story development process, then create a story table – but only if you feel you or your students need another planning tool. Sometimes writing in the margins of the story map or script will do.

Remember- don't skip directly to story boarding! *Story map first*, then storyboard. Why? Because all a storyboard does is ensure that your story – however wonderful or boring – flows logically. It does nothing to ensure your story is strong. On the other hand, story mapping helps make sure that your story is clear, engaging and what most of us would call “a good story” vs. just a series of events strung together. Need more info about mapping? Feel free to email me (jasonohler@gmail.com) or check jasonohler.com/storytelling for information.

What is a story table? A story table is simply a Word table consisting of two columns. It is built in two phases.

Phase One- Put the narrative and media descriptions in separate columns. After building a simple two-column Word table, put the narrative (the script) to be spoken (or performed) in column one. In column two, put a description of the media we see on screen (and possibly hear through the speakers) as we watch your story. This forces you and your students to think about their media choices. **Use separate table rows to denote natural breaks in the story**, such as a change in perspective, scene, idea or speaker.

Phase Two- Get the media, and accompanying citation information and put those in the table. Once you have described the media in column two, then you can actually get the media (usually images and photos) and place them in the table cells, along with your original description; **also add whatever citation information you will need** about the resources you use in order to prepare a proper credits page. If you are using music or video in your story, then simply describe these.

In the end, your story is captured in a table, separated into significant events using rows, with images directly adjacent to the narrative we will hear as we see the image. It is a great way to prep for and visualize your story.

The next two pages show a story table in Phase One and Phase Two.

Phase one – narrative, with media descriptions

| Narrative (voice) | <i>Images, media</i> |
|--|--|
| Once upon a time there was a student who wanted to tell a digital story, but she just didn't know what to talk about. She wondered a lot- what would be most interesting to her? To her audience? | <i>Image of me, wondering</i> |
| That night at dinner she asked her parents if they had any good stories. They told her about her grandparents, and her early days as a baby (very embarrassing), and on and on. Still, it wasn't what she was looking for. | <i>Image of family dinner</i> <i>Me, embarrassed-</i> |
| So, she went to see a psychic... | <i>Psychic, myself huddled around crystal ball, spooky music playing.</i> |

Phase Two – narrative, with images and citations

| Narrative (voice) | <i>Images, media</i> |
|--|--|
| <p>Once upon a time there was a student who wanted to tell a digital story, but she just didn't know what to talk about. She wondered a lot- what would be most interesting to her? To her audience?</p> |  <p>Image of me, wondering (http://www.clipart.com/en/close-up?o=2837683&a=p&q=girl%20thinking&k_mode=all&s=22&e=42&show=&c=&cid=&findincat=&g=&c=55:0:119:1:4:10:24&page=2&k_exc=&pubid=&color=&b=k&date=)</p> |
| <p>That night at dinner she asked her parents if they had any good stories. They told her about her grandparents, and her early days as a baby</p> <p>(very embarrassing), and on and on. Still, it wasn't what she was looking for.</p> |  <p>Image of family dinner (http://www.flickr.com/photos/avlxyz/485917364/)</p> |



Me embarrassed

<http://downloads.clipart.com/34918371.jpg?t=1277307335&h=a7b2d5c6effabf18a4f962fa3eaa9cc8&u>

So, she went to see a psychic...

*Me, psychic, huddled
around crystal ball,
spooky music
playing.*

(Need picture)