

Public Review of “Digital Storytelling Basics” written by Jordan Schugar, Chris Penny, Hannah Glatt, Autumn Hudson, Tu Le, Sarah Mangano

Digital Storytelling Basics is a collaborative textbook written by scholar-teachers, Drs. Jordan Schugar and Chris Penny, Instructional Designer Hannah Glatt, and college students, Autumn Hudson, Tu Le, and Sarah Mangano. Both Drs Schugar and Penny are seasoned researchers and professors in the areas of digital literacy, mobile pedagogies, and open access learning. Their collaborative authorship of this textbook with college instructional designers and students is exemplar of the type of inclusive and forward-thinking scholarship needed for the technology in education field. This textbook offers an equally accessible and provocative framework for college students to gain fundamental understanding of digital storytelling from a technical and critically aware perspective while also inspiring the young digital storytellers to use every day digital tools to ethically tell impactful stories. The textbook does well in demystifying the complexities of telling digital stories by first, briefly, recognizing the age-old technique of storytelling as something that makes us human and helps us connect; next, it builds a tangible intersection of technology and storytelling by providing its “Process of Digital Storytelling” model that is iterative, reflective, experiential and creative. The textbook does well in engaging its college student audience through its repertoire of examples, which include visual models and diagrams, hyperlinked videos, and relevant academic work. Furthermore, the format of the textbook, gives the reader agency in learning the content: while the first three chapters “sets the stage” for digital storytelling as a vehicle for diversity, access, and equity, the remainder chapters are presented as a “choose your own adventure” nested experience allowing the reader to freely navigate topical areas in digital production. The second half of the book, while technical, is practical and easy to digest: it provides a variety of basics from interview lighting to documentary postproduction editing. *Digital Storytelling Basics* as a learning resource in the college classroom is timely and valuable, as it is a comprehensive textbook that engages students in the foundations and practicalities of digital storytelling.

Reviewer bio: Laquana Cooke is an associate professor of digital rhetoric at West Chester University of Pennsylvania.