

# What is a storyboard?

A storyboard is simply a way of planning out the audio and visual components of your digital story. It can be done using a more traditional “blank storyboard” included in this packet, creating your own version, or simply jotting down notes of which photos to use next to your script. Another way to storyboard is to take all the photographs you plan on using and physically put them in order of the story, you can then figure out what you want to say as it relates to each photo.

*STORYBOARD your own story.*

Storyboards can also be drawn, created in Powerpoint or other software, or simply created using two columns in a word processing program, one with text and the other for the corresponding image.

Audio	Image
I stopped and stared, it was peach colored, huge, and it was coming my way.	Peach, zooming in on the pit.
I could smell her perfume, Dior, like the entryway at the department store.	Slowed down video clip of perfume spraying.

## Storyboarding

A storyboard is simply a way of planning out the audio and visual components of your digital story. It can be done using a more traditional “blank storyboard” included in this packet, or simply jotting down notes of which photos to use next to your script.

- **Posterboard and stickies.** Participants can use one color for audio and another for video. This permits people to move around the order of their work, and experiment with different structures.
- **Group storyboarding:** Break up the group into small groups and give each group the same paragraph to storyboard. (This can be from a made up or actual script) Give each group 10 minutes to brainstorm all the different images they could use. Bring everyone back together to compare what they came up with.


*Some people work better by thinking through their story with images, while others prefer to figure out what they are going to say first, then find images to represent their voice. Regardless of the order—the following are a few activities to convey the importance of storyboarding. Remember: creative first, technical later!*

- Reconstruct a storyboard.
  - Watch a digital story all the way through. Then, using posterboard and markers, construct a storyboard of the first 30 seconds. You can do this with commercials, movies, etc...it's a good way to get people thinking about all the different elements of video, and the planning that goes into the work. (There's also a great piece on storyboarding in the DVD version of Shrek where the animator demonstrates all the storyboards that weren't included.)
- Posterboard and stickies.
  - Participants can use one color for audio and another for video. This permits people to experiment with different structures.
- Group storyboarding.
  - Break up the group into small groups and give each group the same paragraph to storyboard. (This can be from a made up or actual script) Give each group 10 minutes to brainstorm all the different images they could use. Bring everyone back together to compare what they came up with.
- Symbolic vs. representational imagery.
  - Discuss the difference between using images that are abstract as opposed to directly representing the audio. Your audio and video can reinforce each other if you want to emphasize a certain point, but they can also add complexity and subtlety to your story. This is often achieved by bringing together images that convey the emotion of what you are saying or images that contrast with what you are saying. Demonstrate some examples. Try the group storyboarding WITHOUT using representational images .