Getting Started with Digital Assignments

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

Other helpful handouts

- Logos, Ethos, Pathos, & Kairos

Writing FAQs on our website

- I want to get started writing early, but how do I begin?
- How can I learn to write in a new genre?

Additional Resources

- Visit UofL's Digital Media Suite in Ekstrom Library
- Create your own digital storyboard at storyboardthat.com
- Search for images, video, and audio that you can use for free at search.creativecommons.org

What does a digital assignment entail?

Like a print-on-paper writing assignment, digital assignments use similar writing processes and require planning to be successful. The main difference between the two is digital assignments allow you to consider many more modes of communication. Instead of just words on a page, you can have words but also images, music, video, people, sound, and more, all interacting simultaneously. For example, videos allow for a combination of video, images, sounds, and more to convey several kinds of information Many writers use storyboarding to plan their digital project. This handout will give ideas and strategies for getting started on digital assignments along with tips to keep in mind while working on these kinds of projects.

Keep in Mind

- What other digital pieces (movies, commercials, television shows, vlogs, etc.) do you admire or like that could you draw from for inspiration?
- What influences you? How do other creators/authors use rhetoric (logos, pathos, ethos, and kairos) to appeal to you?
- What are your limitations of time, equipment/technology, and your own skills?
- Be okay with revision. Like any writing assignment, revision is necessary.
- Some music, video, and images are protected under copyright laws. Using them can be illegal. Commons are collections of media available for free use.
- The Digital Media Suite is your friend. They know about Creative Commons and the different programs you will need to use.

Getting Started with Digital Assignments

Getting Started

- What concept or argument are you trying to convey? General brainstorming, like you would do for a paper, works well for this part of the process. The University Writing Center can help with this step.

- Who is your audience and how will you appeal to them? What can you assume they know? Like with any assignment, your audience influences your product.

- Start putting your ideas on paper or on screen. Use your own or premade "storyboard" (an example is below and it's easy to find these online) to outline your ideas and the sequence of what you plan to present.

- For each thumbnail or box, you should draw a rough picture of what you want your audience to see. The corresponding lines are for your notes or any non-visuals you want to include at that moment.

- Ask yourself what want the visual to be? What sound would be useful (music, dialogue, voice-over?) What comes before and after and is does it readily transition or do you need to provide a transition? How much time do you need or plan to take on each part?

- Revise as needed until you have a solid plan that you want to produce, but still be okay if your plan continues to change once you start filming and producing it.

- Working with new genres is difficult so give yourself plenty of time to learn the programs and to create your project.

Storyboard Example
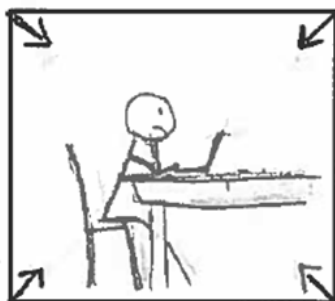
pan in: stressed student
soft, harsh
background music
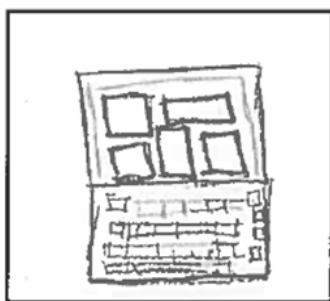
scrolling through
news site; music
gets louder then
stops

cartoon lightbulb
music switches
to happier sound