

CIS 35- Storytelling Assignment (Bonus credit)

Silicon Valley Pressure: Stories from the Valley

Project Goal

To design a student-driven digital storytelling platform that captures how young people in Silicon Valley feel about growing up in the heart of the tech world — including their personal experiences with technology, career pressure, cultural identity, and expectations of success. This assignment is optional; however, students who choose to participate and complete the project will be granted bonus credit

Tools & Technologies- Recommended:

- Frontend: React, Vue, or simple HTML/CSS (or Canva/Adobe Express for non-coders)
- Backend: Firebase or Node.js (optional, for storing submissions)
- Storytelling Tools:
 - Canva / Adobe Express / WeVideo for student-created media
 - Twine (for interactive storytelling)
 - Padlet or Flipgrid for collaborative uploads
- Hosting: GitHub Pages, Netlify, or Glitch

Project Components

1. Student Interviews / Digital Diaries

Students answer prompts like:

- “How does growing up in Silicon Valley affect how you view success?”
- “Do you feel pressure to work in tech?”
- “What does technology mean to you personally?”
- “Have you ever felt like you don’t measure up?”

These can be recorded as audio diaries, video interviews, or written stories.

2. Interactive Tech Timeline

Students create a timeline of how tech has influenced their lives:

- First iPhone
- First coding class
- Social media impacts
- Pressure to succeed in STEM

3. Story Showcase Platform

A responsive website or digital gallery to:

- Feature student-submitted stories (text, video, or audio)

- Include tag filters: Identity, Stress, Success, Family, Culture, Tech Pressure
- Highlight common themes and individual voices

4. AI & Youth Reflection Wall

Optional: Include a section with AI-generated poetry or summaries from student input (use GPT or other models).

Ask: "What would you tell your younger self about technology and expectations?"

5. Final Reflection & Peer Response

Students write or record a reflection on:

- How hearing others' stories impacted them
- What they learned about themselves and the community
- What they'd like adults, educators, or the tech industry to know

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Practice storytelling and digital literacy
- Build empathy and community awareness
- Explore mental health, pressure, and cultural identity
- Gain hands-on skills with digital tools and publishing platforms
- Create public-facing or private digital artifacts for advocacy or education

Bonus Themes to Explore

- Tech & burnout
- First-gen college student pressure
- Comparing Silicon Valley dreams vs. reality
- Navigating identity (cultural, gender, academic) in a tech-driven space