

Assignment Overview

You will (1) complete a digital storytelling project that explores your identity and sense of belonging as a student in Silicon Valley and (2) then analyze your personal narrative using psychology and (3) complete a peer review and (4) short reflection (Part 4 will be submitted as Assignment #5). Please read the instructions, due dates, and grading rubrics carefully!

Part 1: Personal Narrative/Digital Story due May 25th

You will reflect on your experiences as a student in Silicon Valley, focusing on your identity and sense of belonging. Consider, for example, the following questions:

- What aspects of your identity feel most significant in shaping your experience?
- Have you felt a strong sense of belonging, or have you struggled to find your place?
- What personal, academic, social, or cultural challenges have impacted your adjustment to being a student in this environment?
- How have your relationships, cultural background, or past experiences influenced your sense of self and connection to the community?

Then, you will create a 2-4 minute digital story based on your reflection.

A digital story is a short, first person narrative video created by combining recorded voice, images (still or moving) and/or music/sounds (Bryan Alexander, *The New Digital Storytelling: Creating Narratives with New Media*): <https://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/page.cfm?id=27&cid=27>

Here are two examples:

Two/StoryCenter

Wonderland/Geographies of Youth

Browse more examples at the: University of Houston Digital Storytelling Library as well as learn about the elements of a good digital story.

You can create your digital story using Canvas Studio, Powerpoint with voice-over, or other **free** versions of video editing tools such as:

- [WeVideo](#)
- [Apple iMovie](#)
- [Canva](#)

For help using Canvas Studio, check out this guide: [Canvas Studio Help](#). Here are some links for help finding free public domain [images](#) and [sounds](#).

This assignment is unique because it's also an opportunity for your voice to become part of archived history! With your permission your digital story will be archived in the California History Center as part of the NEH funded project *Voices of Silicon Valley* - a project dedicated to capturing diverse experiences and experiences of belonging in this special region of Silicon Valley.

This submission will not be graded - you will receive 3 points for submitting it by the due date (see Assignment #4 Rubric). Your final submission will be graded with Assignment #5 Grading Rubric.

Part 2: Psychological Analysis due May 25th (Week 7 together with your digital story)

You will analyze the narrative you presented in your digital story through the lens of psychological concepts from the course textbook. Choose at least one concept from Chapter 6 (The Self), Chapter 7 (Social Thinking & Social Influence), or Chapter 8 (Interpersonal Communication) to explain and interpret the experiences or perspectives you presented in your story with the goal of better understanding them. *Note:* you will need to look ahead to the content of Week 8 if you plan to focus on interpersonal communication!

For example, your analysis could address:

- How do individual and sociocultural influences shape your identity and adjustment?
- What psychological theories help explain your experiences of belonging (e.g. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs)?
- How have social relationships, external pressures, or personal coping strategies influenced your adjustment?

Your analysis should be approximately 350-550 words and make specific connections between your story and the course content. You should include the specific pages of the textbook you are connecting to your story. This submission draft will not be graded - you will receive 3 points for submitting it by the due date (see Assignment #4 Rubric). Your final submission will be graded with Assignment #5 Grading Rubric.

Part 3: Peer Review due June 1st (Week 8)

On May 26th you will automatically be assigned two anonymous classmates' submissions. You will complete a 1-2 paragraph review of the two classmates' digital stories and analysis to provide them constructive feedback to help shape their final drafts before submission. For example:

- What part of the digital story stood out most to you? Why?
- Were there aspects that could be improved or clarified?
- Was their analysis easy to follow? If not, what could be clarified or expanded on?
- Were the psychological concepts explained clearly and connected well to personal experiences?

Your two peer reviews will be graded using the Assignment #4 Rubric.

After looking at the feedback of your peers you can revise your digital story and/or psychological analysis. For the final Assignment #5, due June 8th, you will include:

1. Your digital story
2. Your analysis

3. A 1-2 paragraph reflection on the experience of analyzing your personal narrative through a psychological lens.

Your final submission will be graded using the Assignment #5 Grading Rubric. - 5 points per day for late submissions.

Assignment #4 Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Almost There	Needs Improvement
Peer Review - Classmate #1	Offers detailed, constructive feedback. Suggestions are clear and specific.	Feedback is present but somewhat vague, general, or lacking clear suggestions.	Feedback is minimal, unclear, or lacks specific suggestions for improvement or not submitted by due date.
Peer Review - Classmate #2	Offers detailed, constructive feedback. Suggestions are clear and specific.	Feedback is present but somewhat vague, general, or lacking clear suggestions.	Feedback is minimal, unclear, or lacks specific suggestions for improvement or not submitted by due date.

Assignment #5 Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Almost There	Needs Improvement
Reflection (<i>1-2 paragraph reflection on analyzing your personal narrative through a psychological lens</i>)	Provides a thoughtful, in-depth reflection on the experience of analyzing your personal narrative through psychology.	Shows self-reflection, but depth of personal insight could be expanded.	Little to no self-reflection is present. Response is overly general or lacks personal engagement.
Digital Story Content (<i>1-3 minute first-person narrative video reflecting on identity and belonging as a student in Silicon Valley</i>)	Clearly reflects personal experiences related to identity, belonging, and personal development in Silicon Valley.	Discusses personal experiences related to identity, belonging, and personal development, but lacks depth or specificity.	Minimal or unclear connection to identity, belonging, and personal development in Silicon Valley.
Digital Story Elements (<i>Story structure, engagement, and effectiveness of visuals, audio, and storytelling techniques</i>)	Story is engaging, well-structured, and effectively conveys a meaningful personal narrative. Visuals, audio, and storytelling techniques enhance the narrative in a compelling way.	Story is somewhat clear but may lack engagement or coherence. Some creative elements present, but they may not enhance the story.	Story is unclear, disorganized, or lacks a meaningful narrative.

Psychological Analysis Content (<i>Applies at least one concept from Chapters 6-8 to interpret experiences in the digital story</i>)	Effectively applies relevant psychological concepts from the course with clear and accurate explanations. Textbook pages are referenced.	Uses psychological concepts but lacks clarity, accuracy, or depth. Textbook pages are not referenced.	Little to no application of psychological concepts. Textbook pages are not referenced.
Psychological Analysis Structure & Clarity (<i>Organization, logical structure, and grammar of analysis</i>)	Analysis is well-organized, clearly written, and flows logically.	Some organization issues, unclear writing, or grammatical issues.	Poorly structured, unclear, or many grammatical mistakes.