Resilience Through Story Symposium Presenters

April 2019

Research Study & Context

Digital storytelling is an innovative, participatory form of social action and research, described as both a pedagogical tool and a pedagogy itself. We are a student-faculty collaboration engaged in a participatory action research study using digital storytelling to promote student success by sharing stories of vulnerability, resilience, and courage that highlight non-traditional pathways through college. We have piloted use of these stories in freshman orientation, onboarding new faculty, and with at-risk high school students. The current project includes testing the intervention in a classroom context and presenting our work at a national AAC&U conference in New Orleans in March 2020.

Abstract

The current work is a participatory evaluation of a digital storytelling intervention aimed at supporting marginalized college students’ resilience. This intervention grows out of a year long Resilience Through Story collaboration between students and faculty to develop a set of digital stories showcasing many different challenges students face ranging from depression to discrimination to financial hardship to the death of a loved one. During the intervention, we will screen these stories to undergraduate students and conduct a mixed-methods participatory evaluation to understand the short and medium-term impact of witnessing these stories on self-esteem, sense of belonging, and community norms.

Research Questions

Can digital stories help students feel connected, persist, and thrive in college?

Evaluation Methods

1. Participant observation of the class during the intervention
2. Focus group discussions of students in the intervention
3. 1:1 interviews of students in the intervention conducted by either the student lead or faculty Co-PI
4. Pre-intervention and one-two month post-intervention surveys

Data from Freshman Orientation Evaluation

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References


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