

**IT 444a—Personal Perspectives:
Communicating My Cultural Identity through Digital Storytelling**

You will be doing a cultural inquiry project in your Effective Teaching class (EEd 320) in which you investigate the cultural characteristics of a particular family group. As a prelude to that activity, this assignment will help you think about some of the features of your own culture and, using iMovie as a tool, express who *you* are in the context of your home and family culture. Becoming aware of your own cultural identity should make it easier for you to respond sensitively as a teacher to students who are ethnically and culturally diverse. You have already begun preparing for *Personal Perspectives* by writing a *Where I'm From* poem and an essay, "Investigating Cultural Characteristics of Your Own Identity," in EEd 320.

OBJECTIVES

- To gain insight into the cultural characteristics of one's own identity
- To use multimedia presentation software to express one's own cultural identity in text, image, and video.

THE TASK

Stage 1

1. Use the questions below (Sleeter, C., 2001) to think about the characteristics of your own home and family culture:
 - What is the structure of your family? Who are members of your family and what roles do they play?
 - How is "leisure time" spent?
 - What role does religion play in your family?
 - What do you and others in your family read, listen to as music, enjoy as art?
 - Who works hard at what? Are there particular occupations common in generations of your family?
 - Where did your family originate and how did you come to live in the Northwest? Are there any common experiences that tie you, your family, and others in a larger group together?
 - What languages are spoken?
 - What does your diet consist of? What are the times and routines of your meals?

- Are there any visual symbols of your family or larger group membership? (i.e., clothing, jewelry, etc.)
 - Are there any organizations or rituals that are important in your family life?
2. After you have identified important characteristics of your family and home life, you will use Inspiration software to prepare a storyboard script for a "digital story" that expresses who you are in the context of your culture. You will most likely choose to focus on some of the areas of culture suggested by the questions above rather than all of them, perhaps taking a thematic or metaphorical approach. ***Your storyboard/script is due January 26.***

Stage 2

1. Borrow a digital videocamera from ATUS Classroom Services (Miller 155) and film some people or events that will contribute to a viewer's understanding of you and your culture (2-4 clips of 5-15 seconds).
Please note: Digital video uses up lots of memory, so don't go overboard! Also, don't worry if you have a "good" segment of video in the middle of a sequence you won't be using; you can download or edit so that you save only what's useful.
2. ***Bring your digital videotape to your IT444 class on January 31, so it can be downloaded and used in your digital story.***

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

3. Your 2-4 minute digital story must have these features:
 - One or more digital pictures
 - A piece of art or poetry
 - A 5-15 second video clip
 - A sound file of a piece of music
 - A voice recording
 - At least two transitions and two titles
 - Credits to indicate the source of music or image files

Stage 3

You will present your Personal Perspectives digital story to your classmates on February 9.