

SJSU Undergraduate Research Grants 2019-2020

Digital Storytelling for Student Success

Rae-Ann Santos and Miranda Worthen, PhD

Department of Public Health and Recreation, San José State University

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.

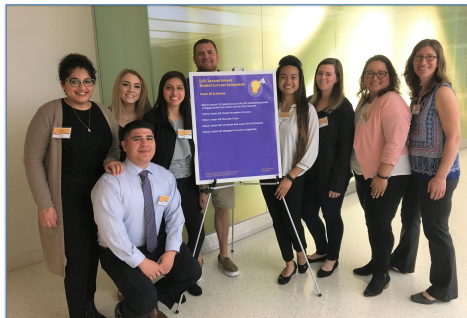
Research Questions

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

Resilience Through Story Symposium Presenters April 2019



Data from Freshman Orientation Evaluation

| Question | Ranking (1 = Not at all, 2 = A little, 3 = Moderately, 4 = Very, 5 = Extremely) | | | | | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--|----|----|----|----|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Did you find the videos useful? | 1 | 2 | 18 | 16 | 15 | 52 |
| Did you find the videos relevant? | 2 | 8 | 8 | 22 | 12 | 52 |
| Did you find the videos interesting? | 1 | 2 | 14 | 20 | 15 | 52 |
| Could you relate to the videos? | 5 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 5 | 52 |

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.

References

- Belone, L., Lucero, J. E., Duran, B., Tafuya, G., Baker, E. A., Chan, D., ... Wallerstein, N. (2016). Community-Based Participatory Research Conceptual Model: Community Partner Consultation and Face Validity. *Qualitative Health Research*, 26(1), 117-135. doi: 10.1177/1049732314557084
- Cargo, M., & Mercer, S. L. (2008). The Value and Challenges of Participatory Research: Strengthening Its Practice. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 29, 325-350. doi: 10.1146/annurev.publhealth.29.091307.083824
- Dwyer, S. C., & Buckle, J. L. (2009). The Space Between: On Being an Insider-Outsider in Qualitative Research. *International Institute for Qualitative Methods*, 8(1), 54-63.
- Hicks, S., Duran, B., Wallerstein, N., Avila, M., Belone, L., Lucero, J., ... White Hat, E. R. (2012). Evaluating Community-Based Participatory Research to Improve Community-Partnered Science and Community Health. *National Institutes of Health*, 6(3), 289-299. doi: 10.1353/cpr.2012.0049
- Lucero, J., Wallerstein, N., Duran, B., Alegria, M., Greene-Moton, E., Israel, B., ... White Hat, E. R. (2018). Development of a Mixed Methods Investigation of Process and Outcomes of Community-Based Participatory Research. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 12(1), 55-74. doi: 10.1177/1558689816633309
- Muhammad, M., Wallerstein, N., Sussman, A. L., Avila, M., Belone, L., & Duran, B. (2015). Reflections on Researcher Identity and Power: The Impact of Positionality on Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Processes and Outcomes. *Critical Sociology*, 41(7-8), 1045-1063. doi: 10.1177/089620513516025
- Sandoval, J. A., Lucero, J., Oetzel, J., Avila, M., Belone, L., Mau, M., ... Wallerstein, N. (2012). Process and outcome constructs for evaluating community-based participatory research projects: a matrix of existing measures. *Health Education Research*, 27(4), 680-690. doi: 10.1093/her/cyr087
- Worthen, M., Veale, A., McKay, S., & Wessells, M. (2019). The transformative and emancipatory potential of participatory evaluation: reflections from a participatory action research study with war-affected young mothers. *Oxford Development Studies*, 47(2), 154-170. doi: 10.1080/13600818.2019.1584282