

DIGITAL STORYTELLING (DST): SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENT 7

PODCASTING: EXPLORING PLOT STRUCTURE FURTHER

Phase 1) Creative use of the five-element plot structure

- Read again the story [excerpt of *The Green Wars* by Andrew Leon Hudson and adapted by Nicola Prentis](#).
- As a matter of fact, the story is much longer, although it uses the same 5-element plot structure for each part or plan. Each of the five plans could also be aligned with the 5-element plot structure.

Introduction	Plan 1: Guerrilla gardening. Establishing who the characters are and the first 'green' challenge and how it lends the two youngsters in community service.
Rising Action	Plan 2: The bamboo forest. They cover the High Street with soil and bamboo seeds, which lands Janey in prison for a longer period
Climax	Plan 3: The vertical farm. The narrator has a big plan she presents at the university, but it required the town council to sell her the plot, which she doesn't
Falling action	Plan 4: Guerrilla gardening 2.0. They develop a "green" action that though still criminal is supported by local communities
Resolution	Plan 5: The right place to fight. They discover the right way to continue to do their "green" actions with the support of local communities

Phase 2) Script writing elements

- Below you will find script writing elements that every storyteller needs to consider. As you go over the explanations and questions make annotations in the margins of your script on where these elements should appear.
- **Element 1 - Point of view** The story above is told in the first person (I) and offers a first-person perspective on the several plans the "I" and Janey had to make their community "greener".
 - Think about the message you are communicating. Individually, make a bullet point list of what you want to communicate / what you do not want to communicate.
 - Compare those lists in your group and identify the 3 most interesting items on those lists.
 - If there is time, explain why there are things in those lists that you do not want to communicate.
 - Consider what your point of view is and whether you want to combine different points of view.



- **Element 2 - Hook** The hook is a statement or a question right at the beginning of the story. For example: “The time is what the army call 'oh-three-hundred-hours' – three o'clock in the morning.” This is the opening sentence of *The Green Wars* that situates readers in a battle. This draws the listener to a situation and creates a series of questions in the mind of people who are listening. Who are these “military” characters? What are they doing? Why do they embark on this military plan? It should create suspense and grab the listener to hear the rest of the story.
 - Browse some [stories at this Learn English site by the British Council](#) and write a list of 5 great opening sentences. Explain why you think they are great opening lines for a storytelling project.

- **Element 3 - Emotions:** Although stories are not real, they should sound real and be about real situations that affect people. The events and emotions need to be perceived as real. The audience must feel that “the stories feel like they are travelling the shortest distance from the heart of the storyteller to the viewer’s won heart” (p. 13 of [Digital Storytelling Cookbook by the Story Center](#)).
 - Reflect on the following questions (from Digital Storytelling Cookbook):
 1. Which emotions will best help the audience understand your story?
 2. Is there an overall tone that captures a central theme?
 3. Are there contrasting emotions that you would like to draw upon?
 4. Can you convey your emotions without directly using “feeling” words or relying on clichés to describe them? For example, how can you imply the idea of happiness without saying, ‘I felt happy?’
 - The following activities are suggested by [Script Writing 7Elements.doc by the Story Center](#):
 1. On one side of an A-4 sheet write BRAINSTORM. List 5 story ideas in 3 minutes
 2. On the other side draw a five-pointed star. Choose one your story ideas and write one answer to each point of the star, starting at the top:
 3. Who are the main characters? Include yourself as character.
 4. Where is the story set?
 5. Think of the story as a mini-movie running in your head. How do you feel at the beginning of the story?
 6. What happened during the most important moment of the story? How do you feel?
 7. How does this event change your life or the way you feel about the world?
 8. In the center of the star write an answer to: Why do you want to tell this story in particular?
 9. Underneath the star, write the opening line of the story

- **Element 4 - Visuals:** To understand how visuals will be part of digital storytelling, ask yourself these questions and provide full answers for them.
 - What images come to your mind when you think of the story?
 - Why that particular image? What does it convey to you?
- You may already have the images that are in your mind or you may have to create them. There are some effects that you can explore with visuals:



- Explicit imagery (photos that mirror reality)
 - Implicit imagery: a scene that may invoke another; a symbol that may represent another reality
 - A juxtaposition of images to create new meaning (i.e. An image of a house followed by an image of cardboard boxes, for example, conveys moving.)
 - The use of text on screen in relation to visuals, spoken narration, or sound
 - NOTE: Your images should be fewer than 20.
- **Element 5 - Sound:** “The recorded voice of a storyteller telling their story is what makes what we call a “digital story” a digital story – not a music video or narrated slideshow” (Digital Storytelling Cookbook, p. 18)
 - The first element of sound is recorded voice.
 - Ambient sounds that happen in the background of the story.
 - Instrumental music can imprint rhythm to the story.

