



DIGITAL STORYTELLING (DST): SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENT 12

TEAMWORK 1: CRITICAL THINKING

Phase 1) What is critical thinking

- Work in small teams and search online **to collect three to four definitions of critical thinking**. Choose one you find most relevant to digital storytelling and explain the reasons for your choice. What criteria have you used when choosing your definition?
- Discuss your findings with other teams and compare your notes. Make a joint list of key takeaways.
- Choose a digital collaboration platform where you can easily collect ideas, tips, and useful links, such as [Padlet](#).

Phase 2) Alternative ways of reasoning

- Consider effective ways of arguing that primarily aim at persuasion. These ways include **1) identity reasoning, 2) rhetorical reasoning, and 3) narrative reasoning**. Let's study these.
- According to [Hazen & Williams' article Introduction: Argument and Identity](#), **identity reasoning** is based on the so-called identity arguments that “stimulate the individual’s (or collective’s) desire and willingness to associate, to ‘merge’, to find consubstantiality, to identify.” In your team, consider how this “desire and willingness to associate” can be used in digital storytelling. Find examples of digital stories which appeal to identity and compare them with those presented by other teams.
- **Rhetorical reasoning** employs all rhetorical strategies of persuasion, or rhetorical appeals, including the traditional triad of logos, ethos, and pathos. For more information, study this blog article on [rhetorical reasoning in marketing by Studiobinder](#).
- Study the [Rhetorical Triangle by The Secret Professor](#) and use it to analyse the rhetorical appeals used in [this digital story 'Why we ride it' by Skoda](#). Compare the results of your analysis with other teams' work and make a list of key findings.
- Read this piece of advice (see below) on the use of rhetorical appeals from [an academic writing lab by Purdue University](#). How does this source treat the three appeals? Do you agree with the advice?

“Argument emphasizes reason, but used properly there is often a place for emotion as well. Emotional appeals can use sources such as interviews and individual stories to paint a more legitimate and moving picture of reality or illuminate the truth. For example, telling the story of a single child who has been abused may make for a more persuasive argument than simply the number of children abused each year because it would give a human face to the numbers. Academic arguments in particular benefit from understanding pathos as appealing to an audience's academic disposition. Only use an emotional appeal if it truly supports the claim you are making, not as a way to distract from the real issues of debate. An argument should never use emotion to misrepresent the topic or frighten people.”



- Finally, there is the so-called **narrative reasoning**, which is built on the idea that stories have persuasive power. A crafty and appealing narrative can serve not only to communicate a message but also present a narrative appeal that can change our actions or beliefs – or solidify them. In your teams, rewatch [the digital story 'Why we ride it' by Skoda](#) and try to show how it can work as a **narrative argument**. What is its persuasive power? Compare the results of your analysis with other teams' work and make a list of key findings.

Phase 3) Discuss what you learned about critical thinking and persuasive storytelling

- Discuss all your findings with your team members.
- Prepare a joint list of **critical thinker's do's and don'ts** that you feel are crucial for **moving from passive consumers of digital stories to active prosumers**.

