Water Stories:

Photo tips, compelling visuals, and storytelling techniques

Presentation by Lianna Nixon
Sharing stories and inspiring conversations about what water means to communities across the Four Corners Region of the Southwestern U.S.

Join the online community, listen to community stories, explore our learning resources, and visit our traveling exhibit!

Learn More: https://wearewater.colorado.edu
Land Acknowledgement

We honor and acknowledge that the University of Colorado’s campuses are on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute, Apache, Comanche, Kiowa, Lakota, Pueblo and Shoshone Nations. Further, we acknowledge the 48 contemporary tribal nations historically tied to the lands that comprise what is now called Colorado.
Agenda

- Introduction
- Icebreaker
- Building Your Story
- Engagement Techniques
- Photo Tips
- Responsible Storytelling Practices

NOTE: Refer to the Link Bank for the Padlet and other resources
Based on “Making Presentations that Stick”

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQ8XvlFamIY

Google Doc Handout: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YHfH-jx2ij0GzIuB1CTIzjrqHVklsxr/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102815730815671620669&rtpof=true&sd=true

Visual Representation

Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park community members and work with Tsé Bii’
Learn More: www.tsebii.com
Lianna Nixon

- Conservation Photographer and Filmmaker
- CIRES E&O Team Member
- Work focuses on the intersections between people and planet through artscience and counter-narrative frameworks
Why do we need Storytelling?

Create more impact
Inspire, Educate, Motivate, Change

Transfer knowledge
Oldest form of communication, synthesizing/retelling knowledge

Stories Engage Us
Tackle complex, abstract notions, approach openly

Community Work
Sharing, expanding, and maintaining
Icebreaker

Please refer to the Padlet Link

Answer the Question:

Think about a nonfiction story (article, TV show, podcast, etc.) What was it about the piece that made it memorable, impactful, relevant to you?
## Building A Story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposition</th>
<th>Inciting Incident</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Climax</th>
<th>Conclusion/Final Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>how do you set the scene for your audience and draw them in?</td>
<td>the beginning of your story’s movement, launching the main premise of your story.</td>
<td>the meat of your story, where most of the action occurs.</td>
<td>Actions are resolved: findings, important messages or key stories</td>
<td>This is where you tie up loose ends, return to themes, call-to-actions, or any takeaways</td>
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Capturing Water

Here are ways to think about capturing water:

- Where is exposed, where it is hidden
- Where it has changed, more of it, less of it
- Physical aspects, characteristics, different states
- Stakeholders, not just people, its impact → water has a face
Camera Techniques

- Exposure, lighting
- Timer – add yourself in it
- Perspective, high above the ground, close to the ground, normal height
- Perspective, using wide angles, versus zoom
- Portrait Mode
- Rule of thirds

Quick DSLR Tips:
- Aperture Priority: F8 is great, ideal ISO 200-400, speed ranges on your subject

Audio/Video
- Capturing conversations around water
- Timelapses
- Make sure your audio is clean
Responsible Storytelling

Foundation to all powerful stories, built on respect and trust

Sustainable storytelling methods that involves active participation of necessary stakeholders

Understand your biases, who/what is being centered,

Nurtures and maintains dynamic and adaptive partnerships
Water Holds Memory

Example of science storytelling narrative
Water Holds Memory

Co-production of knowledge with Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park Elders and community stakeholders

Counter-narrative

Intersects hydrology and climate sciences with oral storytelling

Intersectional Environmentalism
WATER HOLDS MEMORY

TÔ ĖI ÎNÎ ÂT’È WATER IS LIFE
Final Thoughts

What is something you will be taking with you from this talk?
Story Challenge

- Based on what we discussed complete some of the following challenges from the Story Challenge PDF
- Email us about your progress, completed, any additional questions or concerns regarding the talk
- Explore the “Making Presentations That Stick” video tutorial and Storytelling handout:
  Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQ8XvIFamIY
  Google Doc Handout: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YHfH-jx2ij0GzlUB1CTIzjrqHVKvlxsr/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102815730815671620669&rtpof=true&sd=true

Let's practice storytelling!

1. Capture Water, based on the talk, take 3 photos of water in a different way based on different characteristics or settings.
2. Think about YOUR water story, write out a particular memory or moment regarding water using our Storybuilding method including an introduction, action, and conclusion
3. Learn a new engagement technique that can help you communicate water with your community
4. Explore 1 new camera technique you learned regarding light, perspective, rule of thirds, and timing.
5. Talk with someone about what responsible storytelling is and how to use it in your water story or community work.

Completed a challenge? Share your progress with us at: WeAreWater@colorado.edu
Questions?
Connect with Us

We Are Water
https://wearewater.colorado.edu

CIRES Education & Outreach
https://cires.colorado.edu/outreach

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Engagement Techniques

- Photos
- Analogies
- Turn and Talk
- Universal Themes
- Trivia
- Infographics

- Video
- Jamboards
- Personal Stories
- Civic or Societal Meaning
- Hands-on Activity