



Share Your Digital Stories

Jennifer Ragan-Fore, director of new media and member communities, talks about the power of storytelling

Remember the first time you were dazzled by a story you watched unfold on a movie screen? Whether it was *The Wizard of Oz* or *Star Wars* (depending on your generation), Hollywood helped you see something you couldn't see anywhere else. And although you might have been amazed by the Emerald City or the Moon of Endor, it wasn't really about the special effects—it was the movie's heart, its core truth telling, that stayed with you.

These days, we all carry devices in our pockets that give us the tools to be a Victor Fleming or George Lucas. Through the power of digital media, we can each share our unique realities with the world with relative ease and often at little or no cost.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of ISTE and NECC, and we're celebrating our collective stories of educational transformation—those first “aha” experiences in the classroom, technology projects that have motivated and inspired, moments that unlock learning and break down walls.

This is where you come in: As educational professionals who use technology in your everyday work, you are at the heart of these stories. Share your experience, your tales of transformation, and your creativity to help us capture the full picture. And if a picture's worth 1,000 words, then surely a video is worth 10,000, which is why we're inviting you to submit your story as a short film.

We kicked off this story-gathering initiative in April with a monthly video contest. We will show our three favorite videos at NECC and let the audience choose the grand prize winner. Although we can't provide that filmmaker with a corner office on the Paramount or Warner Brothers lots, our winner will go to Denver for NECC 2010—on us! Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your work and win amazing prizes. Learn more at www.iste.org/digital-stories.

RESOURCES TO GET YOU STARTED

Did you know that ISTE recently introduced a Special Interest Group for digital storytelling (SIGDS)? Led by storytelling guru Bernajeane Porter, SIGDS hosts a wiki chock full of resources to help you craft your story. Story prompts, free webinar archives, and video examples are at www.iste.org/digital-stories.

NECC is a terrific place to learn more about digital storytelling concepts, tools of the trade, and classroom integration ideas. Visit www.iste.org/digital-storytelling for this year's lineup of DS sessions at NECC.

Finally, often the best place to start when approaching a creative project is by seeing other examples. ISTE's new video portal hosts all of the videos submitted by your peers. Visit www.istevision.org to view videos from other classrooms, other countries, and other realities. All submitted videos will be featured on the portal and onsite at storytelling kiosks during NECC.

The screenshot shows the 'iste storytelling' website. At the top, it says 'iste storytelling' with the tagline 'Accept to you by the ISTE Vision Network'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for Home, Featured Stories, Most Popular, Top Rated, and Advanced Search. The main content area is titled 'Featured Stories' and displays a grid of video thumbnails with titles and view counts. For example, 'What will you do today?' has 276 views, 'Overturning the Author' has 228 views, and 'Detective Ashira and the...' has 25 views. On the right side, there are three promotional banners: '10th annual iste necc 2009', 'Join the Learning Journey', and 'ISTE Members' Choice 30 Years'.