

2009 Ozarks Writing Project Advanced Institute:

“Digital Storytelling about Place: Exploring Ozarks Culture and Traditions for Ourselves and Our Classrooms”

The Ozarks Writing Project will host a Digital Storytelling Workshop called “Digital Storytelling about Place: Exploring Ozarks Culture and Traditions for Ourselves and Our Classrooms.” The goal of this five day workshop is for rural and urban teachers to create digital stories about the Ozarks community, history, and heritage and bring back their knowledge to their students who will then do the same. The Advanced Institute will meet from July 20-24 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the campus of Missouri State University. A pre- and post workshop meeting will be scheduled.

The Ozarks Writing Project is sponsoring this program in partnership with the [Missouri Humanities Council](#) and with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Missouri Humanities Council awarded a grant to Dr. Franklin for the purchase of digital video recorders and memory cards for use by the teachers during their participation in the Institute.

What is Digital Storytelling?

From “The Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling,” University of Houston:

Digital Storytelling is the practice of using computer-based tools to tell stories. As with traditional storytelling, most digital stories focus on a specific topic and contain a particular point of view. However, as the name implies, digital stories usually contain some mixture of computer-based images, text, recorded audio narration, video clips and/or music. Digital stories can vary in length, but most of the stories used in education typically last between two and ten minutes. And the topics that are used in Digital Storytelling range from personal tales to the recounting of historical events, from exploring life in one's own community to the search for life in other corners of the universe, and literally, everything in between. A great way to begin learning about Digital Storytelling is by watching the following video introduction to Digital Storytelling.

Goal:

The goal of this project is to encourage teachers and students to incorporate community engagement and cultural awareness within their own classrooms. The workshop will provide teachers with access and information about the culture, heritage, and environment of the Ozarks and to provide them opportunities to write, read, and explore community through digital storytelling. Teachers will be provided with professional development in order to learn how to use the technology for their own project and implement the project into their classrooms.

Product:

Participants will develop digital stories about place and community. They will create their own digital stories and view and analyze examples of student and teacher work. These digital stories will be archived on the Ozarks Writing Project web page found at <http://owp.missouristate.edu>. This archive will act as publishing and as a resource for other teachers who did not attend the

institute who may be interested incorporating digital storytelling or community research into their classrooms.

Using resources from the Ozarks Studies Institute, the Missouri State Libraries Special Collections, and local sites, teachers will experience placed-based writing which will encourage community engagement and community as a research topic for teachers and students. These digital stories will make use of instructional ideas and activities shared and highlighted during the Advanced Institute and/or could be organized around themes related specifically to the Ozarks or themes such as community, place, journey, discovery, Ozarks, Missouri, and American History, etc. The thinking behind this topic is that teachers need to find and take opportunities to learn in places outside of class and connect history, the arts, economics, ecology, science, geology, and botany.

As teachers in other parts of the state have explored the same theme, we hope that our collected writings and lessons of place may make a collection worth publishing and sharing with teachers in Missouri and beyond.

Participants:

We welcome applications from teachers at all levels, in all content areas, with all levels of writing and tech experience. Teachers will fill out an application and be chosen based on diversity of grade level and school districts.

Teachers will receive free graduate credit and use of digital equipment to create their digital stories.

Cost:

Registration is \$100. Make check payable to Ozarks Writing Project. This money will go toward buying technology for you to keep and use in your classroom.

Application due date is Monday, May 4, 2009.

If you have questions, contact Dr. Keri Franklin at 417-836-3732 or email kfranklin@missouristate.edu.

Application

To help us plan, please send a note telling us about your experience with and/or interest in using classroom technology to support students' learning.

Name:

Home Address:

City: State: County: Zip:

Home Phone: Email:

School Address:

City: State: County: Zip:

School Phone: Email:

Grade(s) and Subject(s) Currently Teaching:

Mail check and application to: Dr. Keri Franklin, Director, Ozarks Writing Project
Missouri State University, 901 S. National Avenue, Springfield, MO 65897