

WHAT IS DIGITAL STORYTELLING ?

Digital stories are short reflections grounded in life history and expressed through photography, music, audio, text or a combination of all four. This can include everything from place-based oral storytelling, where audio narratives can bring alive a particular site, to short audio-visual narratives that bring together a series of still images and video content with an accompanying soundtrack and first-person narration. We have explored a variety of experimental and collaborative approaches to digital storytelling and often begin with the facilitation of a group exercise, known as the story circle. The collective story circle allows for the participants to catch personal anecdotes that relate to larger social issues.

The democratic potential of DST is in its capacity within media education to encourage critical discussion of the broader social contexts of self-representation and to allow participants to produce their own stories instead passively consume media. The stories can both reflect and inspire personal and collective efforts to transform the food system.

According to Robert Gottlieb and Anupama Joshi, the basic concept of food justice is “simple and direct: justice for all in the food system, whether producers, farmworkers, processors, workers, eaters, or communities”(223). The challenge of extending this food justice frame across the wide diversity of actors in the food system will require new ways of listening, expressing and connecting voices



for justice across farms, markets, schools and other public arenas. Digital storytelling offers an alternative media and education tool through which the personal dimensions of food justice can be voiced, networked with other players in the food movement and potentially engaged in a broader public dialogue. As a way of expressing and challenging our feelings about food and hearing about unfamiliar farming practices, approaches to urban agriculture or injustices at either end of the food system, it is a powerful tool for food education and communication.

On page 6: Gottlieb, Robert and Anupama Joshi. Food Justice. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2010, 223 .

On page 35: King, Thomas. The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative. Toronto: House of Anansi Press Inc, 2003, 29.