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**USING DIGITAL STORYTELLING
FOR TEACHING SPOKEN PRODUCTION**

Digital storytelling is an effective teaching method that improves students' oral communication abilities by fusing creativity and technology. This approach enhances technical proficiency, teamwork, and critical thinking, enabling students to express themselves more effectively. Digital storytelling, made possible by programs like *Adobe* Express, increases audience participation and boosts public speaking confidence.

Creativity is a crucial 21st-century skill that equips students to tackle real-world challenges. It fosters innovative thinking and enhances cognitive abilities such as problem-solving, adaptability, and emotional intelligence. Creativity helps students explore their identities and communicate ideas in unique ways in education, making learning more engaging and meaningful [3].

Oral communication, a vital skill for academic and professional success, benefits significantly from creative methods like storytelling. Educators can help students develop their voice and narrative skills by integrating creativity into communication exercises, preparing them for diverse communication scenarios [3].

Digital storytelling is a pedagogical approach that combines traditional storytelling with digital technologies such as images, audio, video, and animation. This method transforms the storytelling process, making it more dynamic and interactive [2].

According to D. Kim D., H.-R. Park, and O.Vorobel, digital storytelling not only facilitates the development of technical skills but also allows students to explore personal and social narratives, creating deeper connections with the material [1, p. 358].

Creating a digital story typically involves brainstorming, scripting, editing, and presenting, helping students practice critical thinking and refine their communication skills. This experiential learning approach effectively enhances oral proficiency and boosts digital literacy [2].

Adobe Express is an intuitive platform that empowers students to create professional-looking digital stories with minimal technical expertise. This tool lets users combine visuals, text, and voiceovers, making it an excellent resource for storytelling projects. In my classroom, *Adobe Express* has effectively encouraged students to articulate their thoughts and ideas through multimedia presentations. The tool's simplicity allows students to focus on crafting compelling narratives, while its collaborative features facilitate peer feedback and revisions, enhancing both their spoken production and technical skills.

Research indicates that digital tools like *Adobe Express* in storytelling projects increase student engagement and motivation, particularly for those who might struggle with traditional oral presentations. The visual and auditory elements help students convey emotions and ideas more effectively [1, p. 361; 3].

Benefits of digital storytelling in oral communication, in addition to improved spoken production skills, include but are not limited to enhancing engagement and motivation, building confidence, and developing critical thinking and empathy.

Digital storytelling captivates students by merging creativity with technology. The iterative process of creating and presenting digital stories helps students overcome anxiety associated with public speaking. They gain confidence as they rehearse and refine their stories with feedback from peers and teachers [2]. Students learn to analyse complex ideas and present them coherently by crafting narratives. Storytelling fosters empathy as students explore diverse perspectives and experiences [2].

In summary, digital storytelling combines communication, technology, and creativity. Teachers may create an exciting learning environment that fosters students' creativity, critical thinking, and digital literacy while improving their oral communication abilities by utilising various digital storytelling tools in their teaching contexts. This method gives pupils the tools they need for the future and prepares them for academic success in a foreign language.

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