

Hi Everyone, so as part of my use of technology, I decided to present my findings rather than just writing them.

In analyzing the digital stories, I have learned so much from these participants. For the most part, when it came to guiding them throughout the process, I sought to just focus on the process itself and not provide my opinion on their views. I left my theme quite general, *How have you experienced education*. With that, I chose to not provide any insight into my thoughts on education and have my participants interpret it the way they understood it. Doing this led to a variation of digital stories. The beauty of digital storytelling is that we are not only getting a narration, but we are also getting visuals that we can associate what the narrator is feeling and emphasizing. I am satisfied with the outcomes provided. With this, let's dive into the analysis.

- Each digital story has its own personality.
- The digital stories share the commonality of education; however, each offers a different understanding and connection to education.
- Overall, the participants expressed their educational journey differently, but some themes remained consistent.
- Some common themes among the digital stories were, educational struggles, family, pressure, career choices, expectations, financial issues, balancing life, transitions, assimilation, reality, and low self-esteem.
- There are still many differences between the stories. For instance, some participants discussed their struggles with education as they transitioned from one country to another and back. Others discussed how education wasn't all rainbows and flowers, but rather it was like boulders. And some discuss their transition from elementary to HS to college. Regardless of how they experienced it, they are commended for their bravery and effort.
- Each story is unique and that is what makes the digital storytelling process more interesting. While this workshop was geared towards having a group create digital stories, the workshop also enabled reflection. Meaning, the participants learned a lot about themselves and their own journey.
- The visuals presented are also essential in understanding the story. For instance, throughout many of the stories, we see career pictures. In others, we see diplomas and awards. This is important as it emphasizes what the participants hold valuable or emphasize.
- In addition to the visuals, there are commonalities in diction. Repetitive words throughout each digital story. This is quite interesting as it creates a consistent environment yet keeps one on the edge based on how the participant uses the variation of the words. For instance, when discussing family, some of the participants mentioned that their family was their support system while some said returning back to their family was their source of motivation. In essence, this instills empathy because while family could be an overall concept, each participant identifies it differently. Similarly, with education. While some

experience education as a positive entity, others saw it as difficult due to their expectations of education.

CODING WITH TONE USE

- The digital stories allow for a deeper meaning and understanding of the lives and feelings of the participants. We not only see it through their images, but we hear it in their tone and voice. This adds a layer to the strength of their digital stories. For instance, in Sameea's digital story, her tone is strong and resilient as she explains that she is meeting the expectations of her parents by getting a degree. So really, what she is doing is adhering to the cultural expectations of the Indo-Caribbean society. The positive thing about this is that her parents want her as a woman to get a degree which is good, but in order to move to a different stage in her life, this should be completed is a bit drastic. Looking at Narefa's digital story, there are times when her tone shifts allowing us to feel her excitement to stress as she explains her challenges in terms of balancing school and a career. We also get a sense of accomplishment and confidence as she discusses her future goals. Moreover, one feels the sense of hope in the tone of Bonita's digital story as she says, I walked 1 mile to school everyday with the sun beating on me with hopes that I will one day closer to be reunited with my parents. For those who came from the Caribbean, the beating of that sun in the morning while walking is no joke. So, for her to endure this heat and use it as motivation and hope demonstrates her determination which we can feel and imagine, especially by the way she uses the school picture as her still image for that particular moment. Davina's story takes a twist as she uses the voice of an author to connect to some major entities within her story. This use entraps the viewer as she focuses heavily on the importance of education. Davina's tone throughout her digital story is assertive and connects deeply with the ongoing issue and expectations of what the Indo-Caribbean immigrants expect when it comes to their children. As she mentions, it was about getting an education in a field that could establish financial stability versus something of passion. As she says this, one feels a sense of regret because at the end of the day, children aren't looking to follow their dreams but rather get the degree that makes money. Tatianna's story, is quite interesting as she discusses her transition from one school to another and from one place to another. Her story takes us on an adventure through her school journey as she discovers her passion which is business. She starts off by being in school in America then moving to Guyana and then at 16 returning to the United States. All of which fostered her development and passion for business. Her narration carries us through the unexpected turn of events that led her to her career choice today. Khadijah H. uses transportation as her means of relating her story. What is interesting about her narration and image usage is that it was all connected to her transitions and transformations. The use of the bus and train not only represents her transportation use, but also could be analyzed as a change. KH evolves from this little flower into a young woman with a passion for women's health as she finds herself upon

leaving JHS. Her tone is strong as she connects to her culture and religion. KH mentions that there aren't enough ICW within the medical field which creates a sense of urgency. Her ability to decipher this and want to change this is what the ICC community wants to see. Moreover, KR explains how one ICW goes from being bullied because of her religion and culture to being recognized and acknowledged because of it. While students bullied her and attempted to bring her down during elementary and jhs years, she spread her wings and flew as she entered HS as the first Muslim ICW. She graduated with honors and did the farewell speech where she recognized the hardship her grandparents endured just so she could have a better life today. She is now completing her undergrad degree at her dream college and she dedicates this accomplishment to her support system, her family. With all that we see Rebecka's challenges as she explains her journey from HS to the present day. She mentions how hard it was to see her mother struggling as a single mom and wanted to do something about it. So she did, she began working at the age of 16 while still in HS. She continues to work today as she completes her undergraduate degree. She considers herself fortunate to have gotten this far and with the support of her family and fiancé, she feels accomplished.

CODING WITH IMAGES THAT STOOD OUT

- Upon viewing each story, I found that in each piece, there were entities that stood out more than others. These images / videos had me ask the question, why? For instance, Bonita uses images of schools and the picture of the dissected brain which I found quite interesting. The fact that she chose to show the images of school buildings are a representation of how much those moments in schools were used as stepping stones, for instance, the school building in Guyana was her motivation to be reunited with her parents, the times she spend in JHS were motivation to do better in her reading abilities so that she won't get left behind, completing college was her motivation to obtain her career goals. In addition, the image of the dissected brain is a representation of her passion for medicine. She finds comfort in things that many would find odd and that is what makes her unique. Devina opens and ends with a quote which many won't find in their digital stories, but these quotes are affiliated with the importance of education and to what she holds value to. This author and book are what she holds dear to and is different from the others. KH use of the train, transition barcodes, bus, and her hashtag are all unique to her personality. These are all associated with movement and transitioning which is what she demonstrates as being a person that is seeking growth and always on the go while welcoming change at different levels. KR's picture in her medical outfit, and her reaction to her acceptance into college were two pictures that stood out the most in her digital story because it captures her emotions in the realest way possible. Narefa's picture of her journal, her dissecting a brain with a smile, and sitting in for a surgery were three images that were quite interesting. The fact that she still had her journal from 4th grade shows that this is something that she cherished. The dissection and sit in were her passions. Together, the three are the personality of Narefa. Sameea presents us with these images of the falling boulder and teacher screaming as she explains the hardship, she endured during her elementary school days. Sameea associating her educational experience to falling rocks creates a sense of the reality that some face when entering school. Sameea was brave enough to admit that school was not all roses and about opportunities but rather it was hard. This is the reality that some do face, and I am happy that she was able to address it with such bravery. Moreover, Tatianna does the same as she reflects on her days in elementary school when she was "playful" as she provides us with a picture of herself in front of a table of awards. Rebecka took pride in her cakes as she explained to us the way she would decorate them and how it was more of stress relief for her rather than a job. These images are all distinct representations of my participants and whether it was intentionally or unintentionally advertised, it is what makes their story personal.

- Through these stories we are able to see that while none had the same experience with education, they did experience struggles. Whether those struggles were decision making, balance, financial, or reality setting in, they all encountered challenges which they have overcome in their own way.

DEEP ANALYSIS

- Deep look into **Khadijah H**: Khadijah's digital story talks about her transitioning from one school to another and creating her identity. She talks about her nervousness and demonstrates her journey through the use train and bus videos. Her sound choices were interesting as it makes us feel as though we are travelling with her. Along with her identity she associated discusses her reasoning behind her career choice which makes her story individualized. Meaning, she found who she was, accepted it, and wanted to do something that would not only benefit her, but also her community.
- Deep look into **Bonita**: struggles with migration and adapting to the American educational system. She uses this as motivation to be better and do better. Throughout her life she used her challenges as motivation. As a result, she finds herself becoming a perfectionist in all that she does or sets out to do. Her story could be used as a source of guidance for the upcoming ICC especially young girls because her story takes us on a journey whereby she is separated from her parents for 8 years to struggling with school in America, do being affected in college due to the pandemic and then reassessing her life plans to becoming better. In addition, many IC students suffer from speaking abilities due to the fact that many IC people speak what we call, broken English or slang. As a result, the pronunciation of certain words and our sounds vary. In a school environment, which Bonita mentions, students are mocked because of this resulting in many IC students becoming shy and embarrassed. One thing I commend her for is her determination to fix what her teachers found a problem by reading a lot more. This results in her excelling. While Bonita is able to do this, many students are not able to overcome this challenge and fall victim to embarrassment and are afraid to be assertive.
- Deep look into **Narefa**: Narefa creates a story highlighting major breakthroughs in her life from elementary school to present day. She intertwines sound, video, and pictures really well. Narefa's choice of pictures and videos established a connection between who she was and her viewer. One could see her excitement and feel her sense of accomplishment as she inserts these clips. Narefa's discussion on her educational experience leaves her viewers thinking about the struggles of creating balance between work and school and that it is OKAY to have those breakdown moments. Her journey was not all roses but overcoming these challenging moments enables her to move forward.
- Deep look into **Sameea**: Sameea discusses education as a horrid experience. Her expectations were not met as she had high hopes. This triggered her in many ways. It is quite interesting to see that Sameea takes on what many ICW wouldn't and that is exposing the negative experiences with school and education. Because Sameea exposes the hardships and trials that many students face in a classroom setting, she is enabling others to speak up. In addition, this leads to understanding why some students lack

motivation. It isn't because they choose to but rather because their expectations are so high that when faced with disappointments, they aren't sure how to handle it.

- Deep look into **Khadijah R.**: Khadijah takes a different approach to her digital story. She creates a collage of what she wants to present which benefits her in the sense that we see her pictures pop up individually then the collage appears. By Khadijah doing this we are able to get a sense of the pieces that make her whole. It is quite a creative approach. In addition, she hits on some interesting points: challenges, bullying, and being the first. First ICW and First muslim women, in high school which led to using it as a leverage to exposing and representing her culture and religion.