



# Guidance on Recording Audio Narrations for Digital Stories

The recording of a storytellers' script will form the basis of their stories. In a quiet room, in pairs or with a trainer, participants can do their recordings.

If using tablets to create the digital stories then this recording part is done when the film is being produced (audio and images together) using an application such as Sonic Pics.

## **What you will need:**

- Printed script (1 page, or if more than 1 page, end the page on the end of a sentence, not mid-sentence)
- Digital recorder and a mic (or tablet with microphone and head phones)
- Spare batteries for the recorder
- A laptop (optional)
- A quiet room, with a comfortable space for 2 people to sit
- A note pad and pen
- Water and a glass!

## **Process:**

1. Set the participant at ease
2. Have her read her script as practice
3. Give her feedback (remind her to breathe, tell her that if she makes a mistake she can start from the beginning of the sentence again)
4. Do a test recording – record the first paragraph of her script
5. Play it back, give feedback
6. Do the first take recording. Try not to do more than 3 takes (if the process is hard for the participant, pause the recording to let her catch her breath, and start recording again)
7. Make a note of the name of the person and the number associated with the saved recording on the digital recorder and also note which recording was the best one
8. If you can, download the audio onto the laptop you have and give it to the participant on a stick so that she can save it onto her computer in her audio narration folder

## **Tips:**

- When you select your venue, ensure there is a room good for recording.
- Make sure you are familiar with your equipment – practice and play with your recorder before the workshop!
- No one likes to hear their own recorded voice – reassure participants about this and remind them that their voice is an important aspect of their stories.



## Specific handouts disclaimer

### About this handout

These materials are part of the Handbook from Transformative storytelling from social change online platform ([www.transformativestory.org](http://www.transformativestory.org)), Supporting resources section. The handbook provides an integrated set of materials: multimedia, case studies, methodologies and additional resources to support practitioners, researchers, donors, and media interested in understanding and use transformative storytelling to empower communities and support development work to bring social changes.

When not otherwise stated the handout is the result of original work and crowd-sourced material adapted and shaped by the joint efforts of the transformativestory.org core community of practitioners (digital storytelling and participatory video) working collaboratively to extend the original materials, while maintaining the core concept. In addition to adding tool we have extended resources and discovery experiences to make the site better mesh with practitioners demands.

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