Australian War Memorial, H19183.

Digital storytelling is a multimedia approach to personal storytelling, which may combine voice, image, video, photography, sound, music and printed text to tell a short, focused story that typically centres around one person or one event in a person's life.

Great digital stories are based on strong narratives so it's important to think about which story you want to tell about your person or event. Once you have undertaken research about your service person, you will have lots of facts and figures about their life and their service. Your job is to turn a small number of those facts into a unique narrative or story.

In order to plan your digital story you need to think about the following things:

- What is the focus of your story? Is it the person's decision to sign up? Is it the town they came from? Is it something that happened to them on the way to the front? Is it a story about one of their belongings that was sent home to their family? Is it a poem they wrote or a letter they sent home? Can you break the story down into a series of key events or key foci? You need to plan your digital story and outline what you want to cover. Why not create a mind map or storyboard?
- You will need to write a script for your story. Digital stories typically last 3-5 minutes so it's important to remember that you might not be able to tell the whole story of a person's life in that time. What are the key things that you want to say in your story? Do you need to do any further background research or gather details from other people in order to tell this story? Aim for a total word count of between 250 and 375 words.
- If you are interviewing someone, will you film it or record it on a digital device?
- What images will you use to illustrate your story? Don't forget about copyright laws – there may be copyright free images that you can use, which you can access via the Australian War Memorial or via a museum collection such as Museum Victoria's digital pool (http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/images). Try using images that have a Creative Commons licence such as some images available on Flickr or WikiMedia Commons. Aim for no more than 20 images or video segments.
- Will you use your own voice for the voiceover or ask someone else to narrate your story? You can also download audio files from the Anzac Portal's multimedia collection: https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/multimedia/audio Most Australian state libraries and the National Library have an oral history collection, where you can access oral history interviews with returned service personnel. Will you need to use Audacity to edit your sound files?
- Will you use music to create a particular mood or atmosphere? What about other sounds?
- How will you put your story together? You can use apps like iMovie, Vimeo, Animoto, GoAnimate, iMotionHD and Adobe Photoshop – or simply use PowerPoint, PhotoStory, or MovieMaker.
- How will you share your story? Social media? A three-minute film festival at your school? Via YouTube?

Australian War Memorial, H16063.