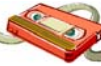# Preparing for the workshop

Doing some of the work prior to actually attending the workshop will definitely enhance your workshop experience. Prepare the following items and bring them with you to the workshop: a script, some images, a few short video clips (optional), and music.

	Script:	Prepare a rough draft of a script. A maximum of 1 1/2 pages, typed in a reasonable font and double spaced is sufficient. What should you write about? Well, you! A story is most powerful when it is personal. Tell a story about something or someone in your family or your community. Family stories always have a ready audience. Tell a story about an event in your life and how it influenced your personal or professional life.
	Images:	Select about 20 images to use in your story. If you can, scan your images at 640 x 480 resolution (200 dpi). Bring them on CD-R or pen drive. You may bring photographs, art work, letters and other items to digitize at the workshop. Digital cameras and scanners will be available at the workshop to do so. What images are best? Your story will determine that content. Then again, pictures can also evoke stories. Your story may emerge as you review old photographs.
	Video:(optional)	Video is used as effective, small clips and usually only if it enhances your story. Preview your tapes prior to the workshop and made notes about which 5-15 second clips you want to use. However, some of the most powerful stories can be told with still images.
	Music:	Choose a couple of possibilities for background music and bring on a CD. There will be royalty free music available at the workshop. You can opt for the best choice during the final edit. We need to respect copyright, so if you may want to post your digital story on the Internet, CD music may not be appropriate.

The Center for Digital Storytelling created a manual for use at their workshop. The Digital Storytelling Cookbook is available in a PDF version at http://www.storycenter.org/cookbook.html . Reviewing the beginning of the cookbook prior to the workshop is beneficial. Some of the versions of the software explained in the cookbook will be different that what we use, but you can learn about the overall process by reviewing those sections.