

# Tanner Center Student Story Project

## Assignment Guidelines 2021-2022

### Background:

The Grace A Tanner Center for Human Values is dedicated to “encouraging maximum exposure of students, faculty, and the larger community to the ideas which best exemplify the human condition and the values which help to define it.” As part of this goal, the Tanner Center is collecting and sharing stories of the students at Southern Utah University.

Each year the Tanner Center chooses a theme and centers its lectures and other activities on this theme. The purpose of this assignment is for participants to identify a personal story that connects to the theme and contributes to a wider discussion on the topic. During the year of 2021-2022, the Tanner Center will focus on “Building Cultures of Meaning” as we celebrate the legacy of Grace A. Tanner, the wife of O.C. Tanner who established the Tanner Lectures. Stories that pertain to the culture of theater or the arts, to international experiences, or to overcoming challenges may fit with the theme.

### Assignment Description:

For this assignment, you will tell your story in a creative format. For example, you may write and record a short podcast/audio essay about yourself, write a blog or social media post, create a vlog or YouTube Video, write a poem, or produce a piece of art or photography. Detailed descriptions of assignment options are listed below.

To be successful with this assignment, you will need to *tell your authentic story*. This assignment goes beyond your basic intro video. This is NOT “My name is/I’m from/I’m majoring in/My hobbies are...” Instead, tell us an interesting, engaging part of your story that goes deeper. What makes you unique or interesting? What part of your story might be unexpected or go against stereotypes and assumptions? This assignment should be personal, meaningful, and expressive. This part of your story might make you nervous because it’s a little vulnerable. It should take some bravery and courage to share. That being said, please do not share anything that makes you feel unsafe. Topics may be serious or lighthearted. You may focus on challenges or triumphs. This is just an opportunity to share a bit of who you are.

\*Photos need to be owned by you. They can be photos you have taken, childhood photos, or other photos that were taken of you. **Stock photography is not appropriate for this assignment.**

This assignment may be shared as part of the SUU Story Collection and may be featured online and/or at campus events with your permission. If you wish to be considered to be featured on the website, please complete and sign the media release form with your assignment. If you do not wish to participate in the Story Collection, please leave the media release form blank. Pieces will be considered for inclusion in the SUU Story Collection based on quality of writing, images, etc.

### **Choose a project from one of the following options:**

**PODCAST:** The podcast only requires your voice, but it can include others' voices as well. You may also want to include other interesting audio elements such as sound effects or music. It should be approximately 2-4 minutes long. It must also include 3-5 photos related to the podcast, at least one of which must be a photo of you.

**VIDEO (VLOG, YOUTUBE, ETC):** Tell a story using a video platform. You may use video footage, a collection of photographs, or a combination of both. Your voice is required. Include at least 2 video effects or transitions. You may also want to include other interesting audio elements such as sound effects or music. It should be approximately 2-4 minutes long.

**POEM or ESSAY:** Use a narrative or poetic format to tell your story. Stories should be no longer than one written page when in a word processing document (approximately 300-600 words). It must also include 3-5 photos related to the essay or poem, at least one of which must be a photo of you.

**ART OR PHOTOGRAPHY:** Create a piece of art or a photographic essay that tells your story through visual images. Include at least one written paragraph to support and enhance your visual story.

### **Assignment Theme:**

In collaboration with SUU's Tanner Center theme for the 2021-2022 school year, the theme for the assignment is "Building Cultures of Meaning." Grace A. Tanner traveled to many countries, attended plays in both New York and London, and loved to visit art galleries. She also valued time spent with family and overcame some significant personal challenges in her life. In what way do you feel connected to the arts? Do you play a musical instrument or perform in plays, write stories or poetry, or create visual art? Have you traveled to an international place? Or are you an international student attending Southern Utah University? Or have you found a way to overcome a challenge?

*\*Links for related Ted Talks listed on the Resources document.*

## **Assignment Timeline:**

WEEK 1: Finalize assignment type and topic. Submit to professor for approval

WEEK 2: Written Rough Draft Workshop in class. *Bring two hard copies to class.*

WEEK 3: Audio/Visual Workshop in class. *Bring your recording and visual components.*

WEEK 4: Final Assignment Due: 11:59pm on Canvas

## **GRADING CRITERIA:**

<b>Assignment Element</b>	<b>Points</b>
Topic – connected to the theme, identified and approved by the due date.	5
Rough Draft and Workshop Preparation – Rough draft of your written, audio, and visual elements are ready for in class workshopping.	10
Focus element (Podcast, Narrative, Photographic Essay, etc.) - shares story in an effective and interesting way.	20
Additional elements (Photos, captions, sound effects, etc.) - enhance the telling of the story.	15
Finished product – Story is interesting and related to the theme. All elements of the project work together to create a cohesive multimedia narrative.	50