

CREATING A STORYBOARD

Storyboarding is a term you must have heard at least once. But what does it really mean? Storyboarding is an important element of planning for any slide-based eLearning project. It's like having a strategy for your online course before you actually start making it. Slide or web-based eLearning development has a lot of different parts that need to work together: the material of the course, the navigation, the graphics, the visuals, etc.

Starting with eLearning storyboard creation is a good idea because everyone wants to know whether they are on the right track or not.

This article will guide you through all the important aspects of eLearning storyboard creation. Without further delay, let's get right into the details.

WHAT ARE ELEARNING STORYBOARDS?

A document that outlines every stage of an eLearning course's creation, down to the smallest detail, including the images, text, audio, interactivity, and branching, is known as a storyboard. The storyboard is often supplemented with a list of learning outcomes and other minor, yet important, details.



HOW PEOPLE USE ELEARNING STORYBOARDS?

Storyboards are used in filmmaking to organize the film's overall plot and ensure a smooth transition from one scene to the next. In the field of instructional design, storyboards serve a similar purpose. The most common applications of storyboarding in online courses include:

- Video and series preproduction involves outlining the shots, transitions, and narrative arc of your how-to videos.
- Course or lesson preparation: visualize the progression across the curriculum in terms of learning objectives and specific modules.

WHY DO YOU NEED STORYBOARDS IN YOUR ELEARNING COURSE CREATION?

The following are just some of the many uses for storyboards:

1. Show how concepts interact and belong together by providing a logical progression of lessons;
2. Create an organized framework for managing projects;
3. Confirm that you and your clients or team members are on the same page;
4. Always keep track of revisions and discarded concepts.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN AN ELEARNING STORYBOARD?



The storyboarding process begins by outlining the goals and objectives of the course. This includes determining the target audience, their learning needs and preferences, and the desired outcomes for the learners. Next, the content of the course is broken down into smaller, manageable segments and organized into a logical and coherent sequence. The storyboard then outlines the visual elements of the course, such as images, videos, animations, and interactive elements, that will be used to support and enhance the learning experience.

While any reasonable format could be used for an eLearning storyboard, essential components are required for optimal performance.

- 1) **Storyboard headers** should include the project name, course name, date, and any other relevant identifying information.
- 2) Full text shown on screen: **Screen Text**. Instructions for pupils to follow, such as "Click Next to Continue," should be displayed. Professionals in the field can preview the entire presentation in advance.
- 3) Audio track (plus **audio notes/audio transcript**).
- 4) What students can and should do while **interacting with the interface**. This is a major point, but explaining how the lesson will be applied to real life is essential. Do not forget to incorporate the various display options for any interactive trees, such as quizzes.

- 5) Be sure to **explain the navigation** that will take students from one page to the next. When feasible, employ if/then statements, a programming logic construct that can be quite helpful in this situation.
- 6) **Graphics/media:** anything displayed on a screen, including images, animations, and where they are placed. Including thumbnail sketches in place of photographs is possible, rather than just describing them verbally. You can also put here the image's filename for reference.

Your eLearning storyboard should be highly specific, to the point, and easy to understand. It should include everything you want to incorporate into your eLearning course.

STEPS FOR ELEARNING STORYBOARD CREATIONS

The following steps will clearly explain how to create eLearning storyboard for your next online course.

CONSIDER YOUR NEEDS

This may have previously been done by an instructional designer during the project's analysis phase. Here, you'll work to define who you're designing this course for and what you want them to take away from the experience.

DECIDE ON AN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN APPROACH

The next step is to plan the presentation of the material to the student. Is it going to be presented in the form of a story, a set of hypothetical circumstances, a series of narrated infographics, or some other format?

ORGANIZE YOUR CONTENT

Examine your current options and make use of the tools at your disposal. What kind of resources, if any, have been made available to you? Is there anything like pictures, graphs, charts, software simulations, etc., that could be used? It's helpful to arrange and keep track of this data in a folder structure with consistent naming rules.

FIND GOOD STORYBOARD TEMPLATES

If you've followed the first three steps carefully, you should now be ready to choose the type of storyboard you'll use. Don't forget that **you can use free sample templates available on our website: <https://eLearningspread.com/templates>**.

START ADDING YOUR CONTENT IN A SEQUENCE

In other words, now comes the hard part! If you're using a storyboard, you may get started adding information and arranging the order of the screens or text columns right away. You should think about the sequence of your content and which points should come first.

You need to fill in the design details, interactions, scripts, progressions, navigation, and branching. As an example, what happens to the student once they leave a certain slide? Do I have more than one choice? If that's the case, you might want to consider adding some branching choices to your storyboard or plan other unexpected, possible behaviors of the learner and prepare for what happens then.

PICK AN AUTHORING TOOL

By this point, you should have a thorough storyboard and a solid grasp of the course's aesthetic and level of engagement. Selecting an editing program is the next step. This is the piece of software that will bring your ideas to life, so it's important to take the time to find the best option. Currently, the most popular authoring tools in the industry are Articulate Storyline 360 and Articulate Rise 360. Many companies also use Adobe Captivate, Lectora Inspire, or Adapt.

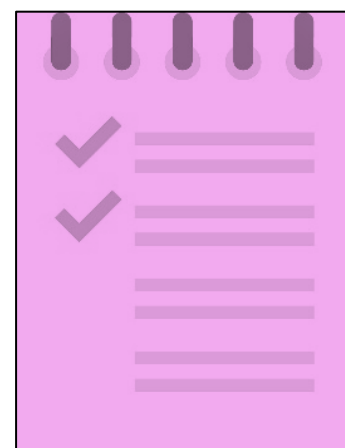


WELCOME FEEDBACK FROM SMES

Collect input from subject matter experts, students, or your team. Inquire as to whether they believe your content will bring about the desired change in learning.

REMEMBER TO DO A DOUBLE-CHECK

Once you are done with everything and have the advice and suggestions of SMEs (Subject Matter Experts), now is the time to double-check and cross-check everything. While cross-checking all elements, always keep this question in mind: "What will this topic teach the readers?" You can also consider why you think this topic will be effective for your learners. It will help you eliminate any unnecessary stuff and incorporate more usefulness into the content.



HERE ARE 11 TIPS FOR POWERFUL ELEARNING STORYBOARDS CREATION

TIP#1:

Make sure your storyboard is **written from the perspective of your subject matter experts** and clients and that it accurately reflects the eLearning goals established during the planning phase.

TIP#2:

The client's **main issues and queries raised during the design** and production phases of the eLearning should be reflected in the storyboard.

TIP#3:

Creating a successful storyboard requires first **knowing who you're writing for**. Conduct surveys and interviews to discover more about your target market. You should be able to glean more information about their training, expertise, and technology savvy after finishing your investigation. Because a great eLearning storyboard relies heavily on the learner's needs and preferences, this is crucial.

TIP#4:

Organize the slides to keep the audience interested and prevent them from feeling overwhelmed. Use both audio and visual effects to help the audience follow the story.

TIP#5:

Verify that the **storyboard represents the final product** as agreed upon by you, the customer, and any other stakeholders before development begins.

TIP#6:

Attempt to **accommodate a variety of student styles**. Try to incorporate visual, auditory, and kinesthetic elements in your storyboarding to appeal to a wider range of learners.

TIP#7:

Pick a style and feel that you can stick with throughout your storyboard. Your storyboard should detail how your company's established visual style for training materials will be carried over into eLearning courses.

TIP#8:

Pay attention to the goals of this learning course. You may maintain the natural flow of your eLearning storyboard and the attention of your audience by writing material for your identified learning objectives.

TIP#9:

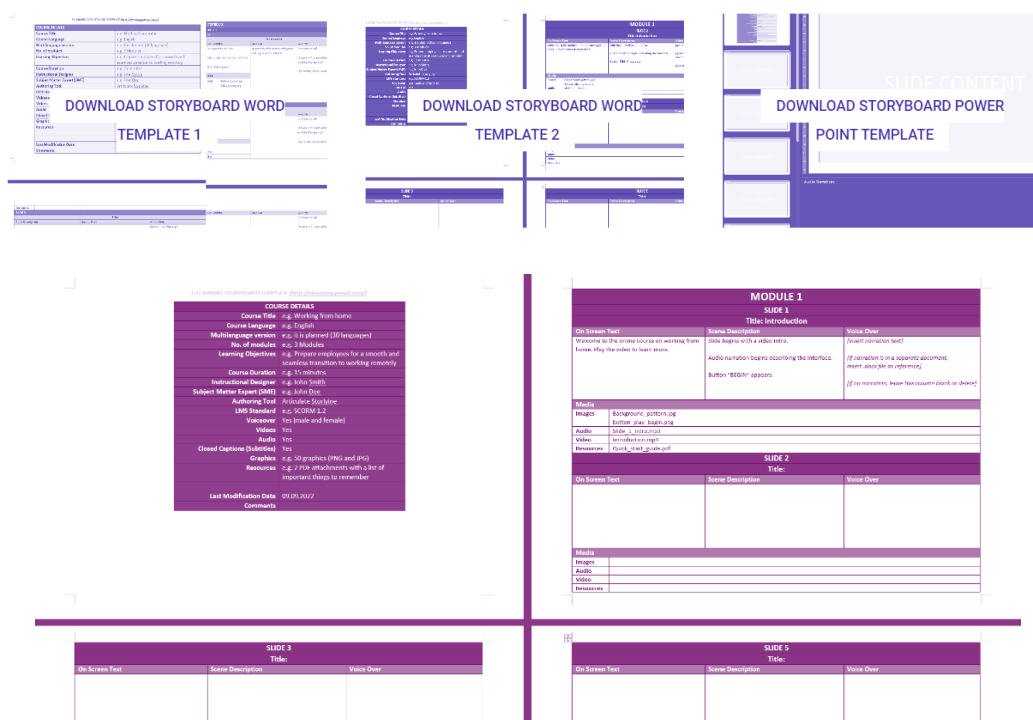
Make sure to **introduce each issue, provide an explanation** of the concept, highlight the most important aspects, and write in plain English if your first target audience is English-speaking people. It's helpful to use question marks, bullet points, and short sentences. When you're done with your storyboard, read it over to make sure you've addressed all of the learning goals.

TIP#10:

Using a **premade template** can be an efficient alternative to constructing your own storyboard from scratch. As a result, you can save time and money and sidestep the difficulties of creating one from scratch, which is a major benefit. This means you should make a master copy of your storyboard to use as a reference.

You can use this to incorporate interesting and original page layouts and introductions into your storyboard. A blank storyboard template is available online for no cost. In addition, you can use Word, PowerPoint, or any other similarly competent commercial program to design your own storyboard. **You can download storyboard templates, for free,** at <https://elearningspread.com/templates>:

Storyboard Templates



TIP#11:

This one is very important. When designing content, keep in mind that someday there might be a need to localize the eLearning course into other languages. This means that the slides should not be swamped with text and that between all the elements, there should be enough space so that the eventual translation of a given slide can fit on it without having to manipulate the font size or change the placement of other elements.

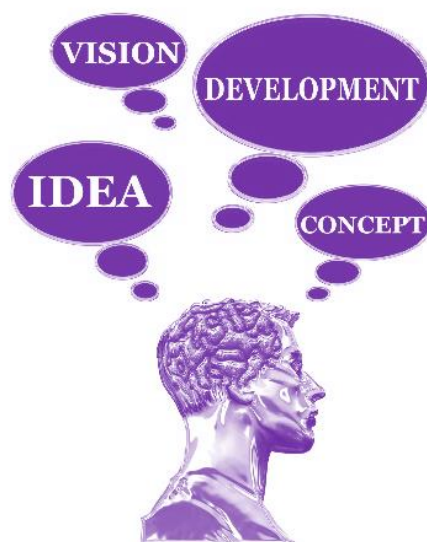


HOW MANY KINDS OF STORYBOARDS CAN YOU USE IN ELEARNING?

We'll go through the three most common storyboard layouts and how to apply them to your next project.

1. A **visual storyboard** is a visual depiction of your planned scenes and production elements for a video or web-based training.
2. **Text-based storyboards** are useful for planning not just eLearning videos with few scene transitions, such as a talking-head piece, but also a longer course or lesson.
3. **Storyboards in instructional design** can be either visual, written, or both. They are used to map out the overall structure of a lesson or unit, as well as the students' progression through that unit or course.

You can use different storyboarding methods to accomplish a single goal.



IMPORTANCE OF ELEARNING STORYBOARDS CREATION

STORYBOARDS ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ELEARNING COURSES

Storyboards enhance the quality of eLearning in three key ways:

- Improves storytelling, curriculum design, and content arrangement. It can be quite difficult to envision the full scope of an eLearning course without a storyboard. They offer a visual representation of your course's hierarchy and organization of materials. You can use this to spot issues, such as blank spots, more easily.
- Makes sure learning happens first, rather than design. Design is crucial in eLearning, but it doesn't take precedence. With the help of a storyboard, you may keep your attention on conveying your course material to students while giving the design of the presentation only a passing glance.
- As a result of the aforementioned advantages, one's time spent studying is enhanced. Better results, more accomplished learning goals, and a guaranteed return on investment are all the results you can expect from this upgraded educational experience.

STORYBOARDS CAN MAKE THE DESIGN PROCESS MORE EFFICIENT

When it comes to designing for eLearning, storyboards are just as crucial. One of the best ways to create effective eLearning courses is with the help of storyboards.

Storyboards are time-consuming to create at the outset of a design project, but they ultimately pay for themselves. They are efficient because they facilitate the establishment of a unified course framework before the initiation of the labor-intensive technical component.

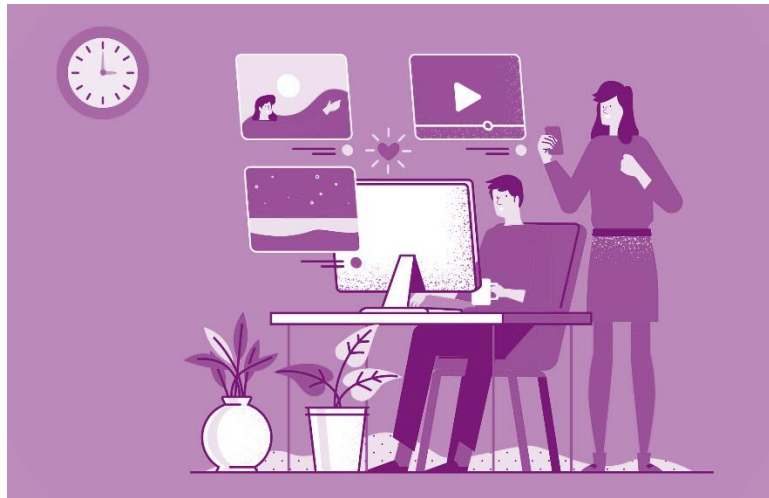
An alternate option is to skip the conceptualization phase and jump right into the implementation details. Issues with the course's structure, organization, or design may not be uncovered until late in the process if this method is used. It is significantly more expensive and time-consuming to undo or redo work at this point than if it had been done earlier, preferably before the design process began, i.e., during storyboarding.

IT SAVES MONEY

Because storyboarding improves the efficiency of developing eLearning courses, you can expect cost savings. As the technical design phase of the project typically takes the most time, it is crucial that as few changes as possible be made at this stage.

IT IMPROVES TEAM COLLABORATION ON A PROJECT

An eLearning storyboard is a visual representation of the project's goals and objectives, allowing the project's lead designer to communicate those goals and objectives to a broader team early on and ensure that they are met with as little ambiguity as possible afterward.



WHERE AND HOW CAN YOU DESIGN STORYBOARDS?

Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are widely used as storyboard programs. PowerPoint's usefulness lies in the fact that it can be used to create the eLearning presentations themselves, after which they can be imported into Storyline and given an interactive twist. You can also create a storyboard by hand, using pencil and paper, or use either free or paid storyboarding tools available on the market.

BEFRIEND STORYBOARDING



In eLearning development, the process of storyboarding holds a crucial position in ensuring the success of the final product. A storyboard serves as the blueprint for the eLearning course and lays out the content, structure, and design of the course in a visual and organized manner. By taking the time to create a storyboard, eLearning developers can ensure that the course is clear, consistent, and filled with high-quality content.

One of the key benefits of storyboarding is that it allows developers to identify potential gaps in the content and address them before they become major issues during the development stage. It also allows for collaboration with subject matter experts and other stakeholders who can provide feedback and input on the course content. This collaborative process helps to ensure that the course meets the needs of the learners and aligns with the overall goals and objectives of the project.

Storyboarding is an essential step in eLearning development that should not be overlooked. It allows developers to plan and organize the content, structure, and design of the course and provides a roadmap for the development process. By creating a solid storyboard, eLearning developers can ensure that their course is well-planned, engaging, and effective for their learners.

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