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Storyboarding for Quality

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Agenda

- History of Storyboards
- Why We Storyboard
- Why Storyboarding is Important
- Key Elements of Storyboarding
- Problems with Storyboarding
- Tips to Increase Storyboarding Success

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History of Storyboards

- Developed at Walt Disney Productions during the early 1930s
- Originated as a graphic organizer of pictures displayed in sequence
- Served to pre-visualize a motion picture, animation, or interactive media sequence
- Designed to visualize the storytelling, focus the story and timing, and define the technical parameters





Why We Storyboard

- Necessity for visual appeal in proposals
- Need to present a cohesive "story" in our proposal responses
- Became part of our industry standard best practices





Why Storyboarding is Important

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- Increases efficiency
- Helps writers:
 - understand the task
 - analyze the audience
 - map, plan, and/or brainstorm
- Helps gain buy-in from stakeholders when formal storyboard reviews are conducted

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Key Elements of Storyboarding

Brainstorming

- Analyze the customer
- Consider the competition
- Consider your position
- Define the section strategy

- Identify section themes
- Outline
- Research
- Add key visuals

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Problems with Storyboarding

- Storyboarding is difficult to implement
- When we do use storyboards, they are often ineffective
 - content is often incomplete
 - content often doesn't transfer to the proposals
- This is likely because we are approaching storyboarding in the wrong way



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Problem #1: You're Storyboarding in Silos

- The real intent of storyboarding is to foster collaborative thinking
- The process of visual thinking and planning allows a group to:
 - brainstorm together
 - place ideas on storyboards
 - arrange the storyboards on the wall
- When used correctly, storyboarding fosters more ideas and generates consensus inside the group



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Problem #2: You're Over-Storyboarding

- Storyboards work best when they support the big picture
 - i.e., the thread that will be pulled throughout the overall response
- For smaller proposals, stick with the major high-level sections
 - e.g., Management, Technical, Staffing
- For larger proposals, storyboarding to the first and second-level sections will typically suffice
 - e.g., 1 Technical, 1.1 Development Approach, 1.2 Testing Approach, 1.3 Implementation Approach, 2 Management, 2.1 Organization, etc.



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Problem #3: You're Not Catering to Different Personality Types

- Different people need different environments to cater to how their minds work
 - Some individuals need independent, quiet time to think through things
 - Some individuals need group dialogue to generate ideas and think through things out loud
 - Other individuals are more visual, and prefer to draw things out



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Tips to Support Different Personalities

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- Vary your solution development, brainstorming, and/or storyboarding sessions to cater to different personality types
- Allow for:
 - independent solutioning
 - group solutioning
 - small group solutioning

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- Present different brainstorming strategies:
 - lists, mind maps, freewriting, etc.

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Tips to Increase Storyboarding Success

- Before the storyboarding sessions, authors should review:
 - RFP documents
 - capture documents
 - proposal outline and assignments
 - storyboard templates
- Set aside multiple days for storyboarding
- Limit brainstorming sessions to 30- to 60-minute intervals with several breaks
- Make time for a formal storyboard review
- Transfer the storyboard content to the Draft Templates



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Chank you!



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