
PACKAGING STORIES: ONLINE TOOLS

Online platforms provide an array of ways that we can present information in engaging and/or interactive ways. These can include creating word clouds and producing geo-maps.

CREATING A WORD CLOUD

Task: Using the key words and their frequency from your stories to create a word cloud that visually represents the discourse in them.

What you need to do:

1. Look at the key words from the stories and write them down onto individual post-it notes.
2. Group similar words together (i.e. youth, young, teenager, adolescent).
3. Identify a 'master' word for each word grouping.
4. Enter the 'master' words and the cumulative frequency that they appear into a word cloud generator such as Wordle. (i.e. if words categorized under 'youth' appear 15 times in the stories, enter 'youth' 15 times in the word cloud generator).
5. Use the features of the word cloud generator to layout and present the word cloud in an appropriate manner (i.e. text colour, font, layout etc.)
6. Think about in what context/situations/platforms could you use this word cloud.

CREATING A GEO-MAP

Task: Using the locations of the stories and Google Maps, produce a geo-map of them and use colour-coding to help categorise them by key topic and/or theme.

What you need to do:

1. Sign in or create a Google account.
2. Go to Google My Maps - <https://www.google.com/mymaps>
3. Use the functions to create your own map.
4. Add each of your stories as markers.
5. For each marker, you should:
 - a. Give it a title and description
 - b. Give it an image
 - c. Ensure it links to the raw story
 - d. Colour-code the maker by topic or theme, and group markers accordingly

TUTORIALS AND ONLINE SUPPORT

- Tutorial on how to use Wordle: <http://goo.gl/5bLj1u>
- Wordle: <http://www.wordle.net>
- Google My Maps tutorial: <http://goo.gl/WYZgPX>
- Google Maps overview: <http://goo.gl/JsNohr>
- Example story geo-map: <http://goo.gl/PK1Lmo>