



# Module 3: Storytelling and Narrative Development



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# Welcome to Module 3

Welcome to Module 3 of the EUnited programme!

In this module, you will:

- Explore how stories shape identity, belonging, and resilience.
- Learn how to create personal and collective narratives.
- Use visual media to tell impactful stories.
- Collaborate across cultures through shared storytelling.

This module will take approximately one hour to complete.



# What You Will Learn

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Construct personal and collective narratives using digital tools.
- Develop a cohesive visual storyline from concept to outline.
- Illustrate emotional depth and clarity through character and dialogue creation.
- Reflect on the emotional impact of storytelling on self and others.



# Why Storytelling Matters?

Storytelling is one of the oldest and most powerful forms of communication. Through stories, we make sense of who we are and how we relate to others.

Stories help us:

- Connect across cultures and experiences
- Express emotions that words alone cannot capture
- Share knowledge and preserve traditions
- Build empathy and understanding

When you tell your story, you invite others to see the world through your eyes – and when you listen, you open yourself to new perspectives.

## Reflect

Think of a story that has changed the way you see yourself or others. What made it powerful?



# Storytelling in the Context of Migration

For migrant youth, storytelling is more than creativity – it is a way to process experiences and claim identity.

Common themes include:

- **Identity:** Who am I in a new environment?
- **Belonging:** Where do I fit in?
- **Resilience:** How have I overcome challenges?

By sharing personal and collective stories, migrant youth build bridges between cultures and strengthen a sense of community.

Storytelling becomes both **healing** and **empowering**.



# Key Elements of a Narrative

Every story, whether spoken, written, or visual, includes a few essential elements.

01

**Plot:** The sequence of events that shape the story.

02

**Characters:** The people or figures who experience and drive the action.

03

**Setting:** The place and time where the story unfolds.

04

**Perspective:** The point of view from which the story is told.

05

**Conflict:** The challenge or problem that creates tension.

06

**Resolution:** The way the story concludes or transforms.

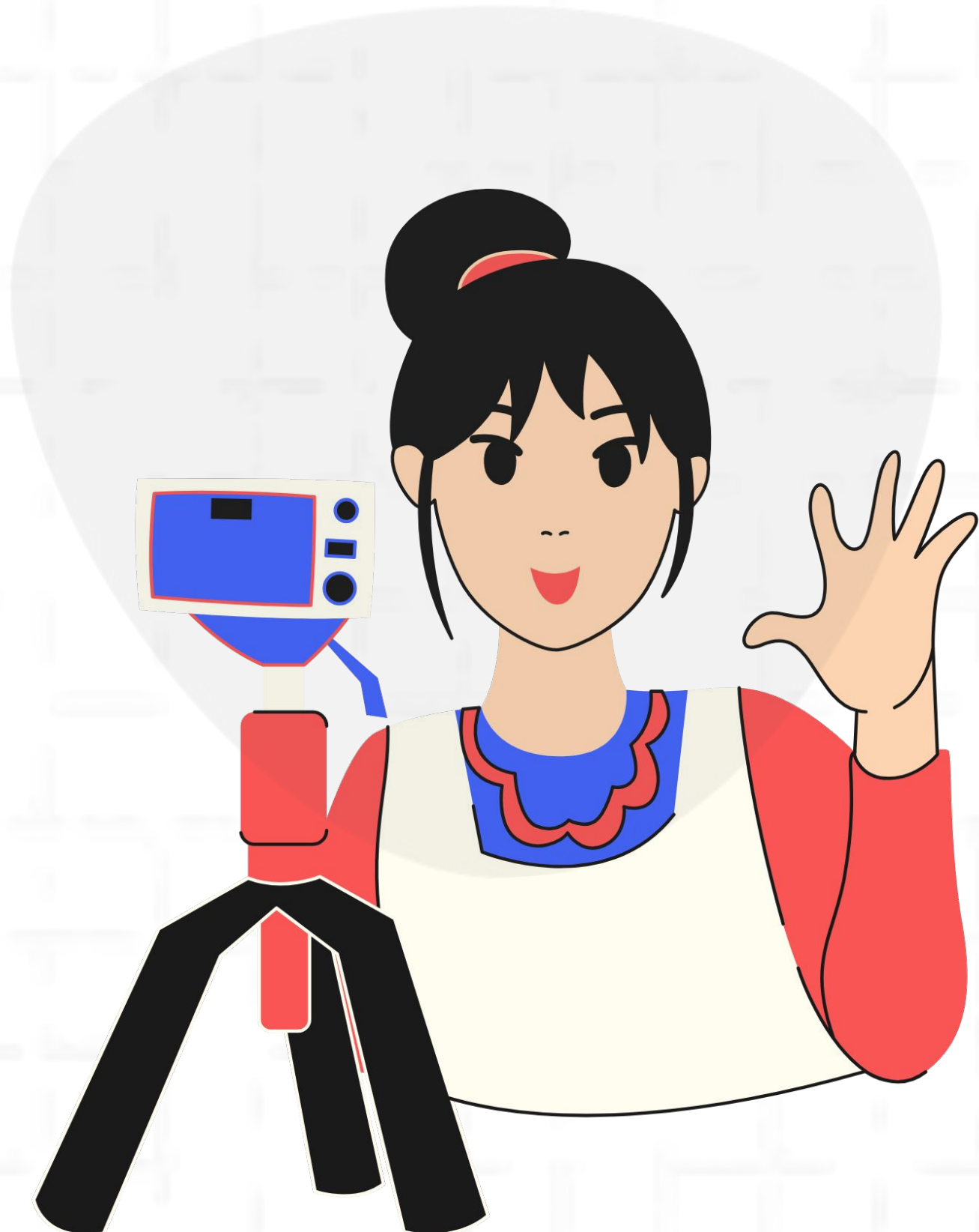
Together, these elements guide the audience through a meaningful journey.

# Narrative Structure

Most stories follow a recognizable structure known as the **story arc**.

- 1 **Exposition:** Introduce the setting, characters, and context.
- 2 **Rising Action:** Present a challenge or growing tension.
- 3 **Climax:** The turning point or moment of greatest emotional intensity.
- 4 **Falling Action:** The aftermath or consequences.
- 5 **Resolution:** Closure, reflection, or transformation.





# Personal Narratives

A **personal narrative** is a story drawn from your own life. It focuses on personal experiences, emotions, and lessons learned.

When creating a personal story:

- Choose an event that changed your perspective.
- Reflect on what you learned or how you grew.
- Be honest and specific – authenticity builds connection.
- Use emotion to invite empathy from the viewer.

Personal stories are powerful because they reveal the human experience behind statistics or headlines.

## Reflect

Think of a moment that made you stronger or more aware of who you are.

# Collective Narratives

A **collective narrative** is created together – by a group, class, or community.

It weaves multiple voices into a shared story, highlighting diversity and common ground.

Collective storytelling promotes:

- Collaboration and listening
- Respect for multiple perspectives
- Shared ownership of the message
- Community building

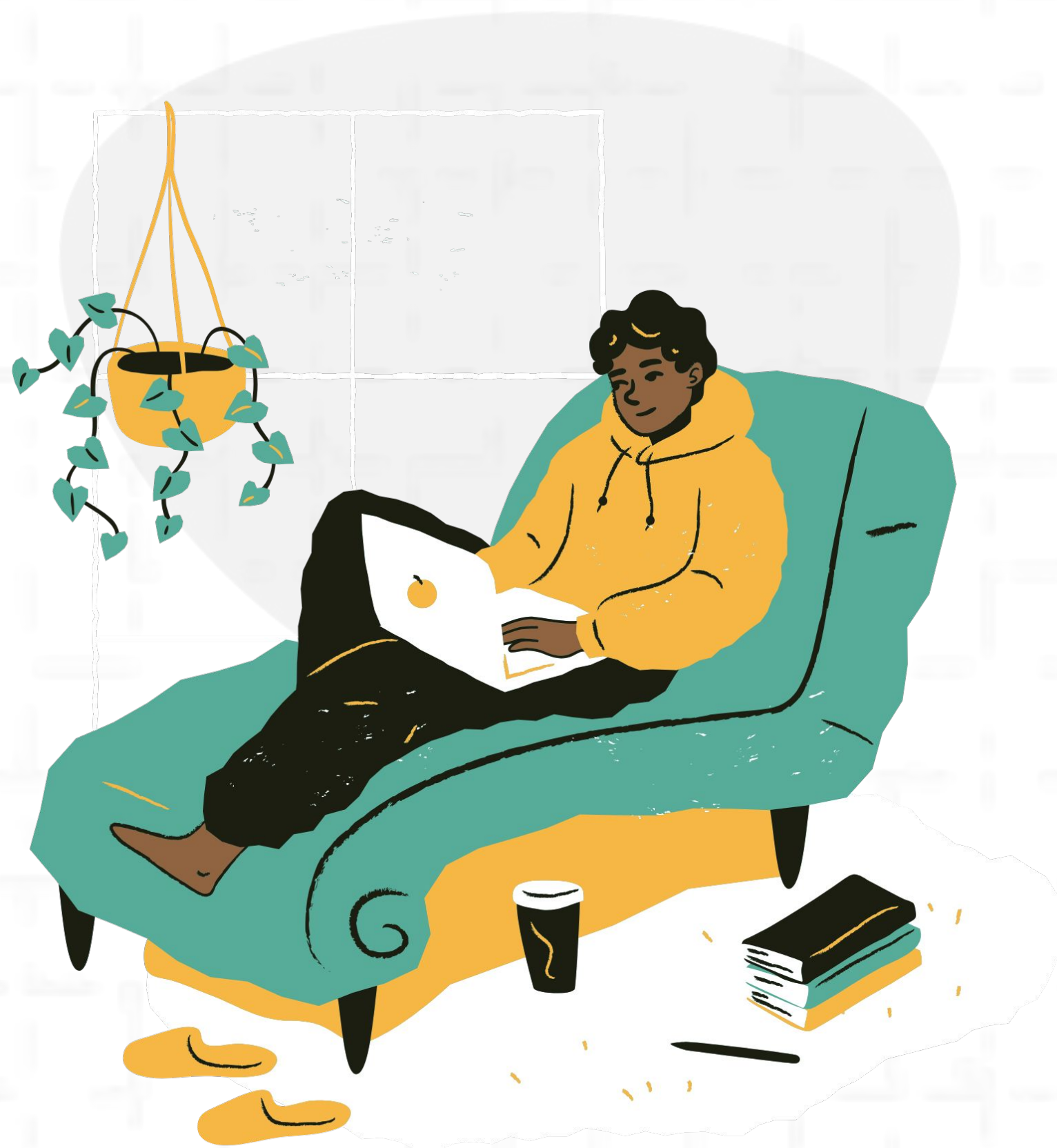
Examples:

- A short film combining migrant youth interviews
- A digital mural representing identity and belonging



# Scriptwriting Basics

Before filming or designing visuals, a script helps you organise your ideas.



Steps to follow:

1. **Concept:** What message or theme do you want to communicate?
2. **Logline:** Write one sentence summarising your story.
3. **Outline:** List the main scenes or moments in order.
4. **Script:** Add dialogue, narration, and visual descriptions.
5. **Review:** Check that your story flows emotionally and logically.

**Tip:** Keep your language simple and natural – imagine speaking directly to your audience.

# Storyboarding Essentials

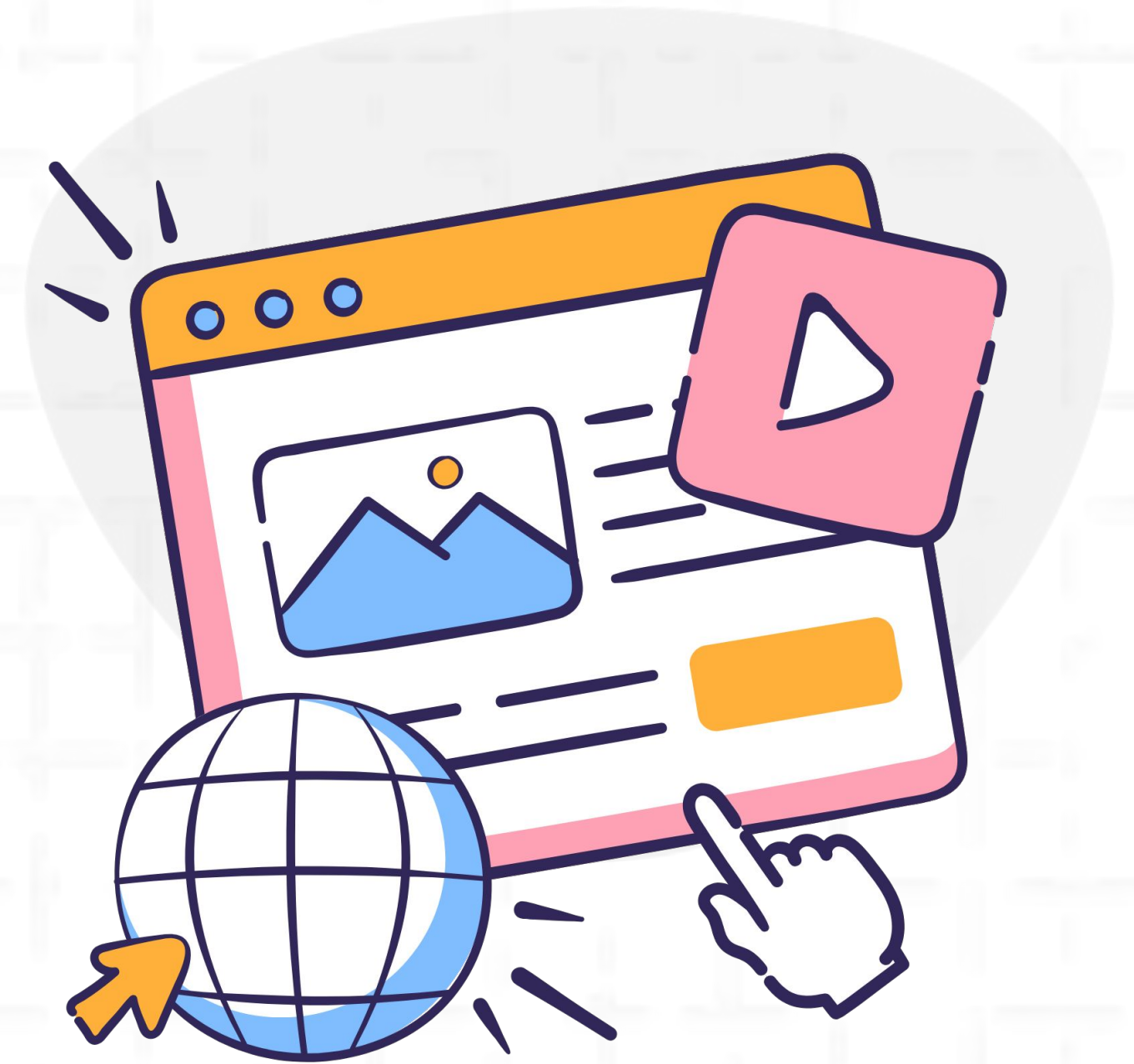
A **storyboard** is a visual plan of your story. It shows how each scene will look and how the story will unfold.

Each frame includes:

- An image or sketch of the shot
- Notes on movement, sound, or dialogue
- Camera angles and transitions

Storyboards help you:

- Visualise your story before filming
- Identify what resources you'll need (props, settings, actors)
- Maintain continuity and focus



# Techniques for Visual Storytelling

Visual storytelling uses images, symbols, and design to evoke emotion and communicate meaning.

Key techniques include:

- **Show, don't tell:** Use visuals to express feelings instead of narration.
- **Use of color and light:** Warm tones for comfort, cool tones for sadness.
- **Body language and facial expression:** Non-verbal cues tell powerful truths.
- **Symbolism:** Objects or visuals that represent bigger ideas.

**Example:** An empty chair can symbolise loss; a bridge can represent connection.



# Digital Tools for Storytelling

Digital media allows stories to reach a global audience.

Some of those tools are:

- **Canva / Adobe Express:** Create visual storyboards or posters.
- **CapCut / iMovie / WeVideo:** Edit short videos and add subtitles or music.
- **StoryMapJS:** Combine storytelling with interactive maps.
- **Padlet / Jamboard:** Collaborate online and share stories visually.

Choose tools that suit your skill level and available devices.

You can find tutorials on how to use those digital tools on **YouTube and various blogs!** Below, there's an example of the tutorial on how to master canva in 15 minutes!



# Emotional Depth in Storytelling



Emotion transforms a story from information into experience.

To build emotional depth:

- Show how characters feel and change over time.
- Use dialogue to reveal internal conflict or motivation.
- Include moments of silence, reflection, or uncertainty.
- Balance joy and struggle – both are part of resilience.

**Remember:** The goal is not to dramatize pain, but to express authenticity and growth.

# Reflection & Takeaway

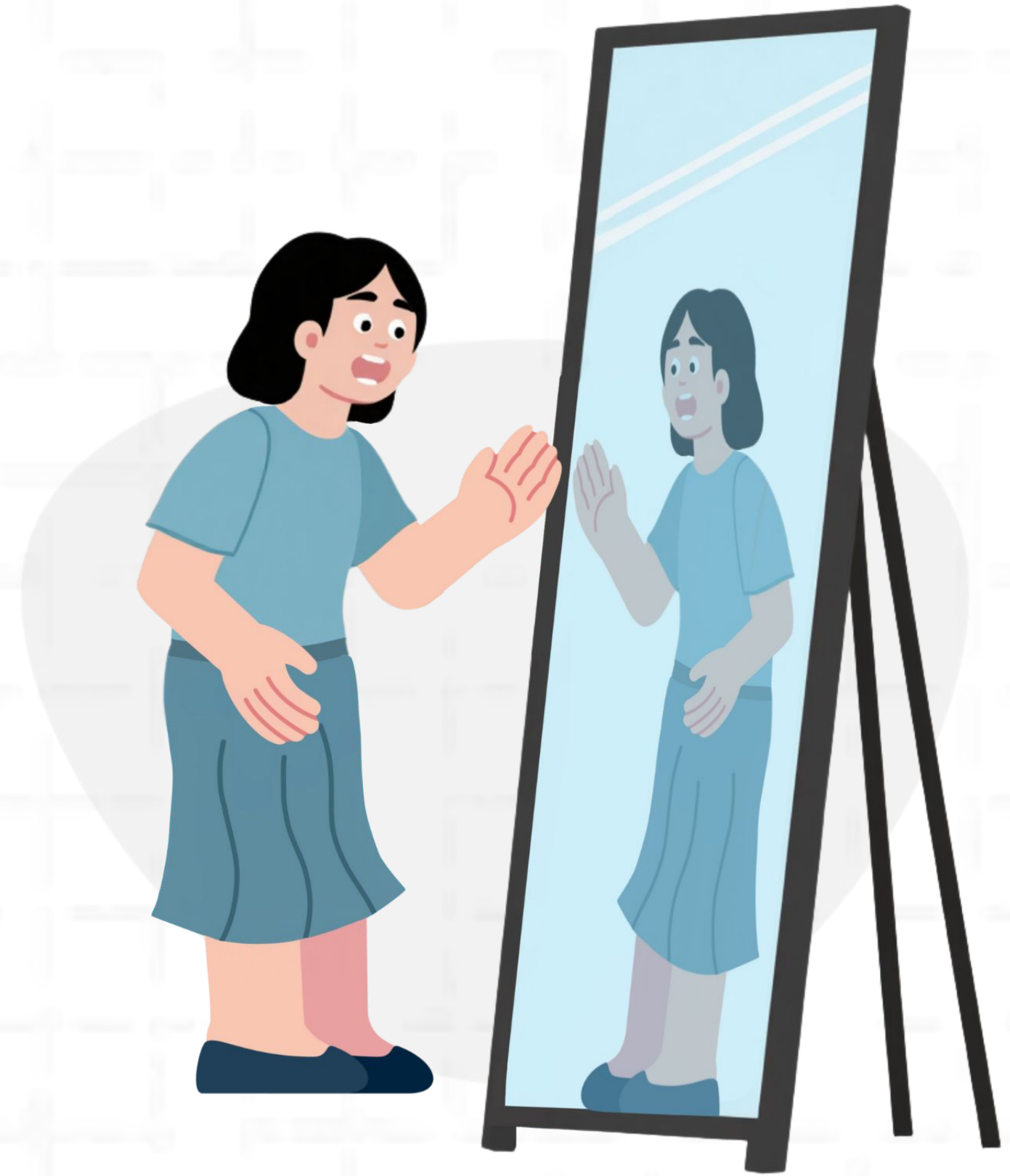
Storytelling is both personal and collective – it allows us to express, connect, and transform.

As you finish this module, reflect on:

- What story do you want to tell about yourself or your community?
- What emotions do you want your audience to feel?
- How can you use digital tools to amplify your message?

## Final Activity:

Create a short (1–2 minute) visual or written story about *belonging* or *resilience*. Share it in your learning space or with your peers.



# Next Steps

## Moving forward

You are now ready to:

- Explore and refine your personal or collective story ideas.
- Experiment with visual storytelling using photos, captions, or short videos.
- Join the face-to-face workshop to practice sharing stories in a collaborative setting.

**Your story has value.**

**Your voice matters.**

**Let's start sharing it.**





# EUUNITED

Engaging Young Migrants from North Africa  
in Participative Video and Storytelling to  
Share Their Narratives



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