The Institute for Leadership in Education Development (I-LED) Webinar Series: Learning through Interactivity

How to Tell a Story, Part I

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Learning Objectives

As a result of this webinar, you will be better able to:

● Recognize the history of storytelling as a central and formative aspect of non-European/western-centric model of education;

● Evaluate goals and intentions when engaging survivor stories; and

● Identify storytelling as a tool of interactivity and adult learning.
Storytelling with Victoria Ybanez
Where has storytelling showed up in your life?
Futures Without Violence

I-LED WEBINAR

STORY TELLING PART I
FACILITATOR

- TWAHNA P. HARRIS
- FOUNDER/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- THE BUTTERFLY SOCIETY
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE
OBJECTIVE

- To educate and empower individuals with tools; that will help them find their voice and tell their stories.

- Learn how to cause impact and change by sharing personal stories.

- Learn how sharing stories can impact legislation, community and bring advocacy, education and awareness.
“Life Without Purpose Is A Tragedy”

Dr. Myles Munroe
MYTH: MY STORY ISN’T IMPORTANT

THERE IS AN UNTAPPED POWER ON THE INSIDE OF US ALL, THAT POWER IS OUR STORY...
STORYTELLING
is the process of using fact, experience and narrative to communicate something to your audience.
FINDING YOUR VOICE
STORYTELLING: FINDING YOUR VOICE

- Listen To Yourself
- Find Your Passion (Tap In)
- Who or what do you want to speak on the on your behalf
- Identify Your Truth
DISCOVER YOUR STORY
STORYTELLING | DISCOVERING YOUR STORY

- Follow the journey of my truth (reveals the narrative)
- Journal Your Journey
- Make peace with your path (Your Why Becomes Clear)
STORYTELLING | OWNING YOUR STORY

- Embrace The Authentic You
- Silence The Shame
- Take Your Narrative Back
- You Control Your Narrative Of Yourself
What’s The Message of Your Story?
CRAFTING YOUR MESSAGE

- Your Impact
- Your Interest
- Your Audience
- Your Call To Action
YOUR CALL TO ACTION!!!!

- What Do You Want To Happen?
- What Do You Want Your Audience To Do?
THE BUTTERFLY SOCIETY

Address: P.O. Box 225 Zachary, La. 70791
Email: thebutterflysociety@gmail.com
Phone: 225-347-7725
Website: www.thebutterflysociety.org
Facebook: thebutterflysociety14
Twitter: @butterflyorgla
TELLING SOMEONE ELSE’S STORY: EMPATHY, ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Beth S. Posner
Clinical Associate Professor of Law
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Develop tools of empathy to receive and process survivors’ stories meaningfully and effectively;
2. Identify when, where, and why we tell survivors’ stories; and
3. Learn storytelling skills that are both effective and trauma-informed.
RECEIVING SURVIVOR STORIES: EMPATHY

“Empathy has no script. There is no right way or wrong way to do it. It’s simply listening, holding space, withholding judgment, emotionally connecting, and communicating that incredibly healing message of ‘You’re not alone.’”

Brené Brown
THREE KEY HABITS FOR EMPATHY

• Perspective Taking
• Staying Out of Judgment
• Recognizing the Emotion & Communicating that Recognition

• RECEIVING A STORY WITH EMPATHY = CONNECTION
HOW MIGHT A SURVIVOR TELL YOU THEIR STORY?

- Flat Affect
- Crying
- Laughing
- Loud
- Quiet
- Aggressive
- Meek
- Surly
- Ashamed
- Entitled

- Incoherent
- Coherent
- Rehearsed
- Inconsistent
- Non-communicative
- Belligerent
- Calm
WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FEELINGS?

- Grief
- Relief
- Shame
- Anger
- Disappointed
- Afraid
- Judged
- Vulnerable
- Overwhelmed
- Guilty
- Worried
- Lonely
- Humiliated
- Anxious
- Hopeless
- Hopeful
- Hurt
- Embarrassed
- Small
- Disempowered
- Empowered
WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

- Cultural Humility
- Creating Safe Spaces for Survivors to Tell Their Stories (Figuratively & Literally)
- Active Listening/Leaning into Survivors’ Stories
- Letting Survivors Control their Own Narratives
We can only hear and connect to another person’s story if we are in a state of genuine curiosity and willingness to learn about the way they experience the world.

We have to listen to survivor stories with an open ear and open heart.

We must recognize that there are things that we don’t know but want to learn—for instance:

- How a survivor’s experiences and the way they tell their story are impacted by a personal or collective history of oppression: racism; poverty; genocide; lack of access to justice
CREATING SAFE SPACES

Physical Spaces:
- Room layout
- Lighting
- Noise
- Interruptions
- Stimuli

Figurative Spaces:
- Holding space for survivors to tell their stories in a way that makes them feel protected, heard, and understood.
ACTIVE LISTENING!

GIVING UP CONTROL OF THE NARRATIVE!
TRANSLATION: TELLING SURVIVOR STORIES

When?
Where?
Why?
THE WHY GETS US TO HOW

Telling Survivors’ Stories Effectively:

• Education
• Advocacy
• Empowerment
INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY

Take a moment—think about all the different times you are in positions to tell a survivor’s story.

Then put in the chat the following:

• Your profession
• The types of occasions (place and/or times) during which you are called on to tell survivor stories
• Why you tell survivors’ stories in those moments
IN THE SURVIVOR’S VOICE

• Translating the story for:
  • Affidavits & Testimony

• Collaborative Storytelling
IN OUR PROFESSIONAL VOICE

• Advocacy & Education
  • Oral
  • Written

• Trauma-Informed
TELLING THE STORY WITHOUT WORDS: LEADING BY EXAMPLE
FINAL PHOTO CREDIT:


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