



Story Telling for Action

Why do we tell our stories?

- Story telling has been an important way of sharing information about our experiences for centuries.
- It is a tool used in community organizing that helps you communicate why something is important to you and can help transform a concern or problem from an idea into an issue to which others can connect.
- The feelings and emotions conveyed in a story inspire us to take action.
- Stories help us build relationships, find common ground, and identify allies.

What is a Story?

- Stories are moving, changing documents that reflect a particular time in your life.
- Stories are usually no longer than 2 or 3 minutes.
- Stories inspire an emotional response in the listener.
- Stories have a
Challenge: What conflict did you experience either with yourself or outwardly?
Choice: What choice did you make? How did you take action to resolve this conflict? What empowered you to take action?
Outcome: What was the outcome? What did you learn?

Guiding principles of Storytelling

- **Get Personal:** What is unique about your story? What does it say about you? Does it answer the question “why do I care?”
- **Details Matter, be Specific:** People should see and feel your story unfold as if they are there. Paint a picture of the moment you are talking about so that other people can really understand where you are coming from.
- **Choices Matter-share your values:** The choices that you have made in your life are often the times when you have learned the most and have felt the most empowered or disempowered. Sharing these choices helps illustrate who you are and what your values are.
- **Inspire Hope:** Your story is about your vision and hope for how the world can be better. You want to inspire people to take action through the sense of hope that you offer.

Developing Your Story

Answer the Question:

Why is it important to me and my life that we make ____ more GLBT safe and affirming?

Guiding Questions:

- Why is this issue important to me? What experiences in my life make this important to me?
- What experiences in my life have led me to take action on this issue?
- What choices have I made that have brought me to this point?
- What actions have I taken?
- Who are the people who have influenced these decisions?

Use the chart below to think about your challenges, choices, outcomes, and values and to help organize your story.

Challenge	Choice	Outcome	Values