

STORYTELLING

Time: 50-65 minutes

Workshop purpose: In this workshop, youth learn to identify a story's beginning, middle, and end. They reflect on what makes a great story, and do an activity to find stories in their own lives and community.

Materials:

- Computer, speakers, projector
- White board or chart paper and markers.
- Pens and blank paper for students

PREP

- Gather materials
- Load this video to watch:
<https://make.headliner.app/download/71851190-27cb-471e-b520-1f4b972879da>
- Load one or more of these stories to listen to:
 - [Why I stopped looking at depression memes \(even though some of them were really funny\)](#)
 - [Growing up on opioids: How music set this Seattle teen straight](#) (CW: Drug abuse)
 - [Being vulnerable doesn't make me less of a man. Los Siete taught me that](#)
 - [Hijabis on the soccer field: This teen founded a camp for Muslim girls like her](#)

- Write on board or post in room:

SEVEN SENTENCE STORY

1. Once upon a time...
2. And every day...
3. Until one day...
4. And because of this...
5. And because of that...
6. Until finally...
7. And ever since that day...

STORY MAPPING

- What's important to YOU?
- What have you experienced that you have a UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE on?
- What parts of your IDENTITY do you want others to understand?
- What PROBLEMS do you see in your community?
- What AWESOME THINGS do you see in your community?
- WHO is most affected/in the best position to talk about this?

OPENING 5 MIN	
5 min	<p>INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Today we’re going to learn about story structure – how a story is put together. We’ll talk about what makes a great story, and how to find the stories in your own life.” ● “This workshop comes from RadioActive Youth Media, the teen journalism program at KUOW Public Radio in Seattle.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “At RadioActive, teens get paid to make their own radio stories about the topics that matter to them. We’ll listen to a RadioActive story today, and you can learn more about getting involved with them at kuow.org/radioactive.” ● “Any questions before we dive in?”
WARM-UP 10 MIN	
10 min	<p>WARM-UP: SEVEN SENTENCE STORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● [Ask students to get into a circle.] ● “Since today is all about storytelling, let’s warm up with a game where we create a story together.” ● [Point out Seven Sentence Story poster] ● “Each person will add one sentence to the story. Each sentence of the story will start with one of the prompts (in order). Each sentence will build on the one that came before it.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [Model this if needed] ● Go around and create a story, with each person sharing one sentence only. ● After the first story, point out that this is about cause and effect – one thing follows from the next thing. ● Go around and create another 7 sentence story. ● “This is one way to think about story structure. Any story can fit into this structure!”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [If time provide a real-world story example, or an example of a popular movie or book, in 7-sentence story form.]
STORY STRUCTURE 10 MIN	
10 min	<p>LISTENING AND APPLYING THE 7 SENTENCE STRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “We’re going to listen to a story created by a student in a RadioActive workshop. Afterwards we’ll talk about how the story was put together.” ● “As you’re listening, think about what catches your attention and makes you keep listening, and what makes you tune out.” ● [Intro and play the story. Accessibility note: many stories have videos with closed captions at the bottom of the web post.] ● [Invite students to briefly share out initial reactions and any thoughts about the story’s content.] ● “Okay, so that’s what the story was ABOUT. Let’s talk about its STRUCTURE: how it was put together.” ● “A great story has a beginning, middle, and end – it has structure. That’s part of why we as humans connect so deeply to stories. We remember things we learn from stories more than we remember ideas without stories attached.” ● “Now we’ll use the 7-sentence story as a tool to help us find the beginning, middle, and end of the story.” ● Go around and plug the story we just heard into the 7 sentence structure – each student shares one sentence.
FINDING STORIES 25-35 MIN	
5 min	<p>WHAT MAKES A GREAT STORY?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “What makes us connect with stories? Having a beginning, middle, and end is just part of it. You probably already know what makes a great story. Now we’ll identify what some of those elements are.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Take a moment to think: Who are the great storytellers in your lives? What’s your favorite story (or one you heard recently) – it could be a book, movie, or a story you heard from a friend or family member. What makes these stories so great? Why do you want to keep listening?” • Affirm student answers and write a list of what they say. (Common answers include good characters, specific details, tension, humor etc.) • “These are all qualities you’ll want to bring into your stories!”
5 min	<p>FINDING STORIES IN YOUR LIVES/COMMUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “But where do you FIND great stories? We all have so many stories in our own lives and communities.” • “Now we’ll watch a video by Radio Rookies about finding stories. Radio Rookies is a youth radio program in New York where teens tell stories about their own lives. But these tips apply to stories about people in your community too – what stories are you in a unique position to tell?” • Watch the video. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o https://make.headliner.app/download/71851190-27cb-471e-b520-1f4b972879da
5 min	<p>EXPLANATION: DRAWING YOUR STORY MAPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Now we’re going to give story mapping a try!” • “Go ahead and take out something to write on. Then take 5 minutes to make a map of yourself and your world, and use it to identify possible story ideas. • “Your map could be written answers to this list of questions [point out story mapping questions], or it could be an identity web like this one, or it could be a literal map of your neighborhood.” • “You can include communities you’re connected to, hobbies, religion, weird questions you have, anything -- the idea is to get all the things you care about or have questions about down on paper.” • “From there, your goal is to identify two potential story ideas.” • “Any questions?”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ok, 5 minutes on the clock, and the goal is to make a story map, and to try and identify 2 story ideas from that map.”
5-10 min	<p>DRAWING IDENTITY MAPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer encouragement, refer to poster questions if people are stuck.
10 min	<p>PAIR & SHARE IDENTITY MAPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In pairs (or small groups), discuss the maps you made. Where do you see great story ideas? Try to identify at least 2-3.” • If time, ask students to talk about their favorite idea. How could they tell that story using the qualities of a great story that we identified? • If time, ask students to identify where the beginning, middle, end of that story would be. • If time, invite people to share out one story idea they came up with.
CLOSING 5 MIN	
5 min	<p>REFLECTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What other questions do you have about storytelling? • What is one thing you will take away from this workshop?