



# Grassroots Collaborative Toolkit

## STORYTELLING

### Sharing & Connecting Our Stories

#### Purpose

- Model sharing your story
- To connect with others in the movement
- Identify sources of support and empowerment within each other
- Identify common challenges in our stories that we find ways around blocks to sustain our activism

#### Time

30 Minutes

#### Materials

Timer, Flip Chart, Exercise Handout, Pens

#### Preparation

Prep flipchart to write answers harvested from participants. Print out copies of exercise handout, enough for one copy for each participant. Distribute handouts and pens to each participant.

#### Description

Lead a short storytelling discussion with participants, write out harvested answers on the flip chart. (3 minutes)

Sample Discussion Questions:

*Why do we tell our stories?*

*Why is it important that we share our stories with others?*

*What is a recent story you heard? Where did you hear the story?*

*What stood out for you about that story? Why do you remember it?*

Quickly summarize discussion by repeating harvested answers and explain to participants: (2 minutes)

*We tell our stories to evolve and grow beyond them. We tell our stories to transform ourselves, to learn about our history, tell our experiences to transcend them, to use our stories to make a difference in the world and to broaden our perspectives that we may act beyond our stories and compel others to take action.*

Prepare participants to share their story with a partner. (10 minutes.)

1. Inform participants everyone will have a chance to share their story today.



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### Description Continued

2. Show and explain Storytelling Slide One “Storytelling Tips”
  - a. Be Authentic
  - b. Stories are About How You Felt
  - c. Should Have Two Vital Components Conflict & Resolution
  - d. Don’t Just Tell, Your Story Show It
  - e. Keep It Simple
3. Direct participants’ attention to the storytelling exercise handouts
4. Inform participants you will demonstrate or model a story using the handout as a guide and ask them to listen for each of the four story parts. (Preferably share your story)
5. Model your story or show and explain Storytelling Slides “Two and Three”
6. After you have modeled a story as a co-facilitator to model resonating
7. Explain the Storytelling Slide on “Resonance.”
  - a. Is what moved you about their story
  - b. Is not a time to offer advice, ask questions, critique, or tell your own story
8. Guide participants through the exercise on the handout to help them begin crafting their story. Give participants 5 minutes to complete handouts.
9. Direct participants to break off into pairs, preferably with someone they don’t know

Direct participants to share and resonate. (10 minutes)

1. Ask one participant to share their story with their partner. They should share a story about how community disinvestment has impacted their lives’ or the lives of people they care about. The storyteller should be allowed to share their stories for three minutes with their partners without interruption.
2. Let storytellers know when 3 minutes is up.
3. Now ask the listeners to resonate with the story they heard. (1-2 minutes)
4. Let listeners know when their time is up and ask the partners to switch roles.

Invite pair to report back. Sample discussion questions: (5 minutes)

*How was it like sharing your story?*

*How was it like when your partner resonated?*

*Without sharing too many details did you find some commonalities in your stories?*

### Debrief



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### STORYTELLING GUIDED WORKSHEET

THE TOPIC OF MY STORY IS \_\_\_\_\_

**Who Am I?** My name, where I work, roles I fill, highlight activism work, how I got involved, how I now benefit from my work...

**It Was Worse When...** What happened in my life that I knew I had to take action, what challenges did I face...

**This is Why I Have to Tell You...** How has my life improved by working with org., What we accomplish together...

**This is How You Can Make a Difference...** What is your call to action, How do people tack action..