

Storysharing Prep Sheet

1. With whom specifically are you speaking?
2. What do you want your listener to do as a result of hearing your story?
3. How might he or she have to feel in order to take that action?
4. Might you have a story you can share about a time when you, or someone connected with your organization, felt similarly?
5. From whose point of view can you tell the story, so that your listener most closely relates to the challenges and successes you present?

Now that you have your memory, let's develop it into an effective and efficient story, one that easily and quickly elicits the desired emotion in your listener.

6. Set your story firmly in time and place.
7. Include names and places, when appropriate.
8. Add emotion. Don't just tell me about the event, but show me how you, and other people in the story feel about it.
9. Add sensory details. If possible, let your listener know how things in your story look, smell, sound, feel, and taste. [Don't add *too many* details: you should be inviting your listener into imagining the scene and the characters in your story but allowing them to fill in and finish the complete picture themselves.]
10. What is the last line? Being intentional about the beginning and end of your story enable you and your audience to make better sense of it.
11. Is your story short, taking no more than three minutes to share orally? Does it fit on one sheet of paper, if printed?

Congratulations on crafting your story! Please share it – you'll get better at sharing stories the more you do so. And the more you share stories, the more stories you will hear in return!