

Your Personal Story and Values

What and Why: Humans love stories. We love them from the time we are tiny children. We love them because they speak to us, they help us make sense of the world, they make the experiences and realities of others come alive for us, they help us feel connected and seen. They ground us and they inspire us.

A personal story is a powerful, motivating narrative that helps you communicate who you are, the values that are important to you as you look at the world, and the experience(s) in your life that have led you to this work.

When you share these stories, your audiences will hear and learn so much more about you than just your pitch. Stories help us understand why you do this work, how/if we connect with you on a deeper level, and why engaging and investing in you is critical for us, our schools, our educators, and our students.

The following questions are designed to help you develop the heart of your story - your values, experiences, and vision.

WORKSHEET - DEVELOPING YOUR STORY OF SELF

Before you decide what part of your story to tell, think about these questions:

- What will I be calling on others to do?
- What values move me to take action and might also inspire others to similar action?
- What stories can I tell from my own life about specific people or events that would show (rather than tell) how I learned or acted on those values?

What are the experiences in your life that have shaped the values that call you to this work?

Family & Childhood	Life Choices	Experiences
Parents/Family Growing Up Your Community Role Models School	School Career Partner/Family Hobbies/Interests/Talents Faith Overcoming Challenge	First experience engaged in this work Connections to key books or people Role Models Passion Projects

List your top 5 values here:

Values and the Change We Seek

Adapted from the works of Marshall Ganz & Michele Rudy

What is your vision for this work? What are you trying to achieve?

What underlying values are important to you and inform your vision?

What are the experiences in your life that have shaped the values that call you to this work?