



Story Circle – Connecting Story tellers and the story

The story circle means that storytellers each get to share their prepared story with each other and facilitators, and receive feedback on the elements of their story. The space where you do the story circle should be private and informal. Story circle takes helps participants finalise their scripts.

Your participants should come to story circle with a story already written - of no more than 1 typed page.

Process:

- Prepare storytellers for the process by framing how comments should be made – supportive, respectfully and without taking ownership or removing the autonomy of the storytellers' voice.
- Ask participants to agree that the story circle is a space where confidentiality is respected and that nothing that is shared leaves the space. This is important because not everything storytellers share will be included in their final stories
- Each storyteller gets a turn to speak their story. It is best to ask for volunteers – take time to wait for someone to volunteer. In the process, don't be afraid of silence.
- It's important to acknowledge strong emotions in the telling. If a storyteller cries or is angry, you as the facilitator need to contain the space and hold the emotion – be steady, be prepared. If participants want to comfort someone, let them, but keep the space open, and the story going. Try not to break the circle.
- After each story, participants are asked to make comments or give feedback. Intervene in the discussion if comments question the authenticity or 'truthfulness' of the story.
 - The group will respond (in this order, everyone contributing to each aspect):
 - a. What is the story about?
 - b. What was the most memorable moment? Why?
 - c. What confuses you or do you need to hear more about for the story to articulate clearly its message?
 - d. Does the arc of the story work well: does the beginning start just where it needs to; does the middle create vivid details; the ending feel like the end
- The facilitator closes the discussion by thanking the storyteller and asking for another volunteer to share their story.

The process might take some time, but it's important that everyone gets a chance to speak and gets equal opportunity for engagement.

Once everyone has shared their story, the facilitator closes the space with thanks and acknowledgement.



Specific handouts disclaimer

About this handout

These materials are part of the Handbook from Transformative storytelling from social change online platform (www.transformativestory.org), Supporting resources section. The handbook provides an integrated set of materials: multimedia, case studies, methodologies and additional resources to support practitioners, researchers, donors, and media interested in understanding and use transformative storytelling to empower communities and support development work to bring social changes.

When not otherwise stated the handout is the result of original work and crowd-sourced material adapted and shaped by the joint efforts of the transformativestory.org core community of practitioners (digital storytelling and participatory video) working collaboratively to extend the original materials, while maintaining the core concept. In addition to adding tool we have extended resources and discovery experiences to make the site better mesh with practitioners demands.

Copyright provisions for this handout:

This handout is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0). To find out how you may use these materials please see <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Under the following terms:



Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.



NonCommercial — You may not use the material for commercial purposes.



ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

For the full license see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/legalcode>