

## Six second stories

**Purpose:** This document is meant to support the conversation about Six Seconds Stories for learning, which is the keynote for the Stories for Learning Strand in the [K12 Online Conference](#). Each one of the stories is linked to its Vine video counterpart that will allow for further discussion. It is also entirely appropriate to comment on this document as well. This is OUR conference and these are OUR stories.

**Non-Purpose:** This document does not represent the actual content of each video created for this project. Rather, this are the text version of these stories. The videos do a much better job of actually conveying the meaning of these moments.

### Background:

- These videos were created with Vine. You can download the app here: <http://vine.co>
- You can watch all of these videos in my account stream by going here: <https://vine.co/u/907536965623234560>
- You can access this document at any time from here: <http://bit.ly/6secSFLdoc>

### The Videos:

1. [My story of learning isn't so different from anyone else's. It is just mine.](#)
2. [Moments are the thing that make up our stories.](#)
3. [We keep trying to tell stories in the broad and sweeping archs.](#)
4. [We keep trying to make them into novels.](#)
5. [But, they aren't novels.](#)
6. [They are Moments. Small. Finite. Moments.](#)
7. [These are my moments, my stories.](#)
8. [The moment a student chose to write an essay called "Thinking about Thought" for a project I called personal curriculum.](#)
9. [And I saw that when he turned it in to me, he truly knew himself better because of having done it.](#)
10. [The moment where a parent who thought I was too young to challenge and support her child told me that her daughter was learning deeply.](#)
11. [The moment that I put my first lesson on a blog for use the next day.](#)
12. [And students could see and comment on and click links for activities.](#)
13. [The moment I stopped using Overhead transparencies. I didn't realize the last time I did it, would be the last time in my life, but it was.](#)
14. [I don't miss them.](#)
15. [The moment I presented before my peers for the first time about blogging.](#)
16. [And how none of the people in that session continued blogging after their first post.](#)
17. [The moment I realized I could record my ideas on the drive to work with my iPod.](#)
18. [And how there was an audience for the new "podcasts" that was larger than just myself.](#)

19. The moment I stopped agonizing over the seating chart and got comfortable with kids moving around the room throughout the class.
20. The moment I sat with kid in Guitar club and we wrote a song together. We only did it once, and it was special.
21. The moment I took a student I was tutoring in my own car to the bookstore and bought him the Perks of Being a Wallflower because I knew it was a book he would actually read.
22. I never told another adult about the drive because we weren't supposed to take kids in our own cars. I did it anyway.
23. The moment a teacher stopped me in a Professional Learning session, and said she needed me to slow down.
24. I assumed it was an isolated instance of not providing enough support for one person, but when I came over to give a mini-lesson, everyone else in the room crowded around to listen.
25. I then knew I needed to actually CHANGE the way I was talking and provide more entry points for her and everyone else.
26. The moment I arrived at my school in darkness, nearly 2 hours before school started, just so I could make the lesson plan that much better before the kids got there.
27. The moment I had yelled at a kid as loud as I could in order to get them to stop questioning me.
28. I felt terrible because I knew I was the one who was out of line. And the moment I apologized to her and to the whole class for breaking their trust.
29. The moment I created a march madness bracket for persuasive thesis statements. And the fact that it actually worked.
30. The moment the students stole my special pen that I had been carrying around for years and they wrote a ransom note for me to get it back.
31. And instead of getting mad, how I then critiqued the ransom note and taught them better writing strategies for really trying to persuade me.
32. The moment I suggested that we start a club to learn more about how to use the iPod touch.
33. We brainstormed names for such a club, and I suggested The Touch Club before we all realized just how terrible a name that would be for an adult to lead with children.
34. Needless to say, We did not choose that name for the club.
35. The moment my team of teachers and I wrote a grant proposal during a round of high stakes testing in order to create a School within a School model.
36. In this, we were successful in securing a class set of laptops for the team and it transformed what we could collaborate on across all core disciplines.
37. The moment I took pictures out of old National Geographic magazines and stapled them to cover all of the walls in the room.
38. Students always had writing topics. All around them, they had these pictures of far off places and great colors. They never lacked for ideas.
39. The moment I decided that I was going to allow students to read anything they wanted, including websites and recipes and counting it for their time reading.

40. [I knew then that arbitrarily making distinctions between types of reading was just silly.](#)
41. [The moment that I posted to Twitter for the first time in March of 2007.](#)
42. [I wrote "I'm figuring out how twitter can be used in middle school."](#)
43. [I didn't actually figure it out until May.](#)
44. [The moment I looked at spreadsheets of isolated data on paper with my colleagues. It made me feel like we weren't talking about kids anymore.](#)
45. [The moment we wrote and acted out a play of "The worst behaved class in the world" and I had a classroom observation from my principal.](#)
46. [I did this on purpose.](#)
47. [The moment I taught children how to use a proxy server in order to access websites and Youtube for research.](#)
48. [And then how security came and took all of the computers away and I had a disciplinary review of what they had accessed.](#)
49. [The moment I first had 50 people all editing the same document at the same time.](#)
50. [I was excited by the possibility and frustrated by some of the functionality. For me, it wasn't like anything else I had ever experienced.](#)
51. [The moment I met Zac Chase the first time I went to Educon and talked about books we love for over an hour.](#)
52. [And how I knew that I wanted to be friends with other adults around the country and the world in ways that reached beyond reading their blogs or responding to their tweets.](#)
53. [The moment I did a digital scavenger hunt with 135 7th and 8th graders in downtown Denver.](#)
54. [We sent them texts to follow clues. And They did.](#)
55. [The Moment I first saw someone capture their classroom with video and reflect upon it.](#)
56. [It was both validating and trust-inspiring.](#)
57. [The moment I wore short shorts for the fun run at our school, and the children felt the need to point them out to me.](#)
58. [The moment that I first used Chrome and the internet seemed to speed up immeasurably.](#)
59. [The moment I made the decision to leave the classroom to work with teachers. I did this to create change on a larger scale.](#)
60. [But, sometimes I think there is no larger scale than being in a place to change a single child's life through learning.](#)
61. [The moment the Internet-only colleague and I made a parody of Mr. Rogers neighborhood theme song for an online course we were both Taking part in.](#)
62. [The moment I wandered in the woods in the 11th grade trying to conjure up inspiration for a transcendental poem.](#)
63. [There was something in those woods that made me feel that Walden wasn't just a book, and learning wasn't just something that happens in school.](#)
64. [The moment that my daughter read to me a book that she had never seen before.](#)
65. [As she turn the pages, I knew that she was in possession of something that would fundamentally change her.](#)

66. [She now stuffs towels in the crack between the door and the carpet in her room when she doesn't want me to know that she is staying up late reading](#)
67. [The moment I wrote my first lesson plan while I was in middle school for my friends in a computer club I had started.](#)
68. [I held the club at a cyber café. And it was everything that an eighth grader teaching other eighth-graders about computers could possibly be.](#)
69. [The moment in college when my professor made me write the paper over because the first one was riddled with incomprehensible metaphors that only I understood.](#)
70. [I knew then that writing wasn't for obfuscating the truth, but rather for finding it and making it real for others.](#)
71. [The moment I publicly streamed video of student debates from my classroom on the web without considering any of the student privacy concerns.](#)
72. [The many many moments I had to go to plan B when my lesson plan or my technology failed me.](#)
73. [The moment in my student teaching that I let students make mix CDs as a part of their final project for John Steinbeck novel.](#)
74. [And they put so much effort and agonizing choice for the songs, that I knew how much The project meant to them.](#)
75. [The moment I asked students to write about their ideal learning environment.](#)
76. [While some of the responses were far reaching and spoke to the promise of learning in new ways, many of their responses looked a lot like the school they were currently attending.](#)
77. [I knew then that it wasn't just the adults in the building that were responsible for current state. We all are.](#)
78. [The moment I bought a typewriter in to class and had the students write yearbook entries on it.](#)
79. [For most of them it was the only time they had ever touched a manual typewriter.](#)
80. [The moment I spent an entire summer putting up all of the lesson plans I had ever created onto a wiki in order to share them with the world.](#)
81. [The fact that they still exist for me to look back at is a source of pride and ongoing reflection for me.](#)
82. [The moment I found that a single LCD projector was the killer app in the classroom, connecting my students to the resources and people they needed.](#)
83. [The moment I made my first Hackintoshes by putting OS X Lion on two Dell Inspiron laptops.](#)
84. [When my children sat down to use their very own Macs with old trashed computers, I knew that access was something incredibly valuable, even if it required being really nerdy and a lot of effort to figure out.](#)
85. [The moment I saw my first VlogBrothers video and I realized that my favorite author was also one of the best Video Bloggers in the world.](#)
86. [The moment I first put an Animated Gif into a Google Doc and I saw that we could make the moving pictures from Harry potter newspapers into a reality.](#)

87. [The moment I spoke with people on 4 different continents simultaneously through video conferencing.](#)
88. [I was better for having those other perspectives, and I am more prepared to see my own learning in the context of a plural society rather than an isolated and singular one of my own creation.](#)
89. [The moment I finished writing 365 blog posts in 365 days. It was more learning than I have ever done, before or since.](#)
90. [The moment I made a milage calculator out of a Google Form and Google App Scripts. I knew that there was no problem too small or timesuck to pervasive that I couldn't tackle it with a few hours of thinking and creating.](#)
91. [The moment we set up a microphone in the team office for groups of students to record their old-school radio dramas.](#)
92. [They acted things out in strange voices and made foley sound effects with empty coke cans and pieces of paper. They had fun at school in learning something old, and new.](#)
93. [The many many moments I have made connections with people who have pushed my thinking through blog comments and replies to tweets.](#)
94. [They didn't have to make these contributions, but they did.](#)
95. [They made the internet and my story for learning a more inclusive place. They made it so I didn't feel alone or stagnant.](#)
96. [I deeply felt these learning moments, each one with more understanding that my story wasn't only mine.](#)
97. [It is all of ours. The story of our learning. The story of Us.](#)
98. [While there is no end zone in learning, no locker room celebration for us to gloat about how much we know and can do.](#)
99. [There will always be these moments that lead us to more more moments. To better moments, to more connections and more trust.](#)
100. [We are the stories we live. Built with every lesson plan, every student interaction.](#)
101. [We must tell our stories to one another, mixing the good and the bad.](#)
102. [We must reveal these moments because they are what will change us, and in turn change the world.](#)
103. [\(Me Grinning Because I Just Finished\)](#)