

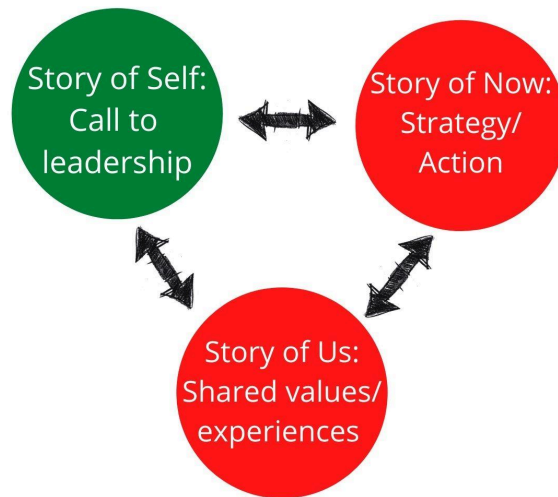
The Story of Me

The Story of Self tells why you do what you do – why you care about the issue you are working on and the community that you serve.

It expresses the values and experience that call you to take on leadership and work to build a better community.

It is your story of who you are and how you got to where you are now.

Later, we will add to this with the Story of Us and Story of Now. You don't need to worry about those parts at this time, but the diagram below will help you understand how it all fits together.



1. Spend 5-7 minutes developing your Story of Me. Use the worksheet below.

You may have multiple stories you want to tell about yourself. Pick one and develop it. It doesn't have to be the perfect one – the best way to find the Story of Me you feel most confident in sharing is to try out different versions of your own story and see what feels the most right. Just commit to trying out one today and see how it works.

Think about the communities and people that you work with. Think about what shared values you have, how you have come to work together, and what shared experiences you have so far.

How can you build those into a Story of Us that shares the impact and the opportunity of your own story with the story of the community/team you're working with? Think about how to link your Story of Me with a larger Story of Us

that frames your work as partnering with the community/team in a mutual effort for community development.

After 15 minutes, you should have a short list of topics, ideas, memories and talking points. The goal is not to write a speech, but to set out guideposts for your Story of Me that you'll later develop into your Story of Us.

Story of Me Worksheet

1. Your Path + Your Purpose

Why are you drawn to the work you are doing? What change do you want to make in the world? Why does this work matter to you?

What's the story (in 1-2 sentences) of how you ended up where you are, as opposed to any of the many other places you could have taken your life?

Jot down notes in this spreadsheet to help build your story:

Your Path/History	What Motivates You	The Change You Want to Make	Other Notes

2. Your Values + Shared Values

What values are most important to you? How do they intersect with your work, your role and your focus in life? Which values do you think your intended audience holds? *Your audience is likely to be the community or team you are working with – or people you are hoping to engage in the work.*

Jot down notes in this spreadsheet to help build your story:

Values You Care About	Values that Your Audience Might Have	Other Notes

3. A Good Story

What's a story from your life experience that can serve to SHOW your path, purpose and values rather than telling them?

Think of a descriptive, illuminating story that gets to these points. A dynamic story will stay with the listener better than a generic description.

Jot down notes in this spreadsheet to help build your story:

Story Ideas:

4. Bringing It All Together

In 3 minutes, what are the key highlights you want to hit from the 3 sections above?

What is the narrative arc you want to tell in your story? Think about your ultimate goal when trying to determine this arc – and recognize that the goal will likely change depending on who your audience is.

Jot down notes in this spreadsheet to help bring it all together for your speech:

Your Path + Purpose	Your Values + Shared Values	A Really Good Story