

CHECKLIST: EFFECTIVE STORIES

Effective stories are...	
• Not lame. Is the story of interest to students or just the teacher?	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Concise. Cut out every word you can. Shorter stories are more powerful.	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Vivid. Have you included enough details to paint a rich picture?	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Emotional. Will the story touch students' hearts?	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Surprising. Can you make the story more effective by including a surprise ending?	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Humble. Stories that celebrate a teacher's successes can be off-putting to students.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: *High Impact Instruction*, Jim Knight

CHECKLIST: HOW TO TELL A STORY

Well-told stories are...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned ahead of time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Think carefully about the main elements of the story before you tell it. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spontaneous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Too much planning is also a thing! It may cause your stories to feel inauthentic. Strive to tell stories that feel spontaneous. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telling a story in the classroom shouldn't feel any different than telling a story in the kitchen. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strive to find the easiest way to explain the events of your story. Some of the most powerful stories are shorter than 100 words. 	<input type="checkbox"/>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Short<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If you can cut something without changing the meaning of the story, do so.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Appropriately paced<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A quick pace is usually more engaging than a slow one.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: *High Impact Instruction*, Jim Knight

