

Advocacy

101 Storytelling with Courtney Murray



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Storytelling reflection questions

1. How did you become the type of person who cares about building women's political power?
2. When was the first time you stood up for something that you truly believed in?
3. What do you wish politicians knew more about your life and why?

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Defining Storytelling

We define storytelling as a **first-person narrative** about a **specific incident** that **compels people to take action**.

- **First-person narrative:** This is something that happened to you. Not a friend, not a family member, not something you heard about. If we do not tell a first-person narrative, we risk telling other people's stories, and what originally intended as self-expression and self-advocacy becomes speaking for someone else.

- **Specific incident:** In storytelling, we want to talk about a specific thing that happened to you. Usually this is something relatively time-bound (happened over the course of a day, a week, etc.), and you can identify when the incident started and ended. Examples of a non-specific incident include more ambiguous timelines like "throughout my childhood." Specificity lends itself to details that make the listener able to enter the world of the story.
 - **Compels people to take specific action:** Within the context of organizing, stories must always compel people to take action, and that actions should be as specific as
 - How did you become the type of person who cares about building women's political power?
 - When was the first time you stood up for something you truly believed in?
 - What do you wish politicians knew more about your life? Why?
2. Next, zero in on a specific event that happened to you that tells the answer to one of the questions above
 3. Finally, write out that story below, making sure you paint the picture of the event and conclude your story with either how your mind shifted about something or an action you can ask people to join.

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Now, try putting it together! Follow these steps to write your story using the elements above.

1. Choose one of the questions above that most resonated for you:

RESOURCES

1. [Cori Bush - Speech about Abortion Rights \(TW: SA\)](#)
2. [X Gonzalez - Speech about Mass Shootings](#)