

On the Shoulders of Giants: Honoring our past as we shape our future
NAI Region 9 Workshop, March 16-18, 2012
Yosemite National Park, California

Storytelling 101

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Abstract

This storytelling workshop is designed to give participants the tools they need to create their own original stories. Through the use of Visual Portraits, telling and retelling, and fine-tuning presentation skills, participants can gain confidence in their storytelling abilities and take a new skill home with them. This method approaches the creation of new stories in a systematic way that makes it easy and fun for any level of storyteller.

Keywords

storytelling, hands-on, movement, sound, expression, tools, visual portraits

Introduction

Embrace Your Inner Storyteller: Unearth the Tools that Create Confident, Enthusiastic, Original Stories for Your Program

Stories were originally created as means for communication with each other, as reading and writing were not available. They hold history, legend, tradition, and morals that can give our interpretive programs that spark of passion and enthusiasm the audience needs to connect to your theme.

Stories can capture magic in special ways for each audience member individually. Because of this, there are a myriad of techniques used by storytellers all over the world to engage their audience.

What do you like most about a good story?

The First Step – Visual Portrait of a Story

What things about the example story made it good?

1. movement
2. sound
3. expression

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Why do we use movement, sound and expression?

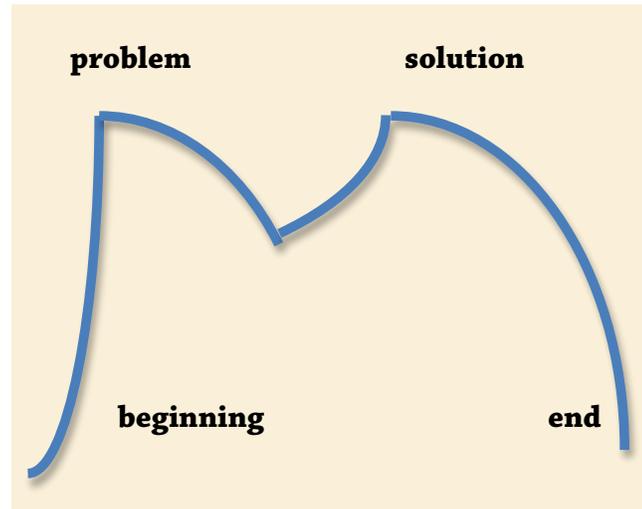
People learn in different ways.

1. movement = visual
2. audio = sound
3. expression = kinesthetic

If you just have an okay story, not a great one, and you tell it this way, the audience will like it much better. If you have a good story and don't use those items, they will get bored. Just like interpretation programs, storytelling needs these elements to connect with the audience.

How to create your story:

1. Pick something you are **passionate** about!
2. Start with the problem (Problem/Solution T chart)
3. Solution
4. Beginning
5. End
6. Draw a picture



The Second Step – Telling and Retelling

1. Tell your story to someone else
2. Ask them to re-tell it back to you.
3. Take note of the changes you like and add them to your story.

The Third Step – Making it Better!

1. Tell your story again, this time with the changes.
2. Ask your listener to answer these questions:
 - a. What made this a good storytelling?
 - b. What could I do to make story even better?

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Lastly,

Practice, practice, practice!

Conclusion

Some good tips to keep in mind when presenting a story:

- Try not to turn more than 45 degrees to your audience so the people on the side can still see and hear you. Try to prevent a 180 degree audience.
- Try to work in the space of your arms, too much lateral movement will take away from your presentation.
- Speak to the person in the back of the room.
- Start off without the need of visual aids, and evaluate if you actually need them.

You may decide that you want to start over and do something different from today. You can pull from what you've learned to create a better story that you like. Use the Visual Portrait and the Tell and Re-tell method. Practice, practice, practice to make your story the best it can be!