

Reclaiming Voice:

Using Digital Storytelling to Support Sexual Assault Survivors in Speaking Out



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Agenda

- Overview of the Digital Storytelling Methodology
- Theoretical Basis for Working with Survivor Stories
- Survivor-Informed Approaches to Practice
- Telling Your Story: Hands-On Writing and Sharing
- Questions and Discussion

View Story



Overview of the Digital Storytelling Methodology

Pioneered by StoryCenter (formerly Center for Digital Storytelling)

Centralizes First-Person Voice

Workshop Approach: The Value of Creating Stories in a Group

A Form of Community-Based Participatory Media



Theoretical Basis for Working With Survivor Stories

Narrative and Art Therapy

Feminist Approaches

Brain – Body Based Approaches

Popular Education and Testimonio



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Survivor-Informed Approaches to Practice: Workshops

Involve Skilled Practitioners, Clinicians, and Advocates

Be Clear and Transparent About Project Goals

Carefully Screen Potential Workshop Participants

Attend to Issues of Culture and Safety

Allow Adequate TIME ...



Survivor-Informed Approaches to Practice: Workshops

Develop and Use Clear Story Prompts

Tread Lightly in Offering Feedback (be attuned to participants!)

Focus Discussion on “Seven Steps” of Digital Storytelling:

- *Owning Your Insight*
- *Owning Your Emotion*
- *Finding a Moment*
- *Sharing Your Story*
- *Seeing Your Story*
- *Healing Your Story*
- *Assembling Your Story*



Survivor-Informed Approaches to Practice: Distribution

View Consent as a Process, Not as a “One Off” Activity

Ensure Adequate Workshop Follow Up and Support

Involve Storytellers in Distribution Planning

Contextualize Stories Depending on Audience / Venue

Prepare Storytellers for Publicly Sharing Stories; Prepare Audiences for Viewing Survivor Stories

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Telling Your Story: Hands-On Writing and Sharing *Writing Prompts*

Find Paper and a Pen

Take 15 Minutes to Write a Story About:

- A moment when you felt unsafe
- A time when you felt deeply called to your work as an advocate
- A situation when you stood up for someone's rights



Questions and Discussion

Thank You!

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