



TIPPS FOR STORYTELLERS

FINDING THE RIGHT STORY

Each event has a theme. All stories told that night will have to fit that theme. Think of a story you experienced that has some value for you and that matches the theme. Then make it ready to tell.

HOW TO PREPARE

Practice telling your story out loud. Tell it several times until you know the red thread, but don't learn it by heart.

At StorySpark you'll tell your story without notes and you'll only have six minutes which will fly by faster than you expect. But if you practice, you'll be ready for that. The first version of most stories is way too long. In this case ask someone to listen to your story and tell you what the essence of your story is. This is the heart of your story. Then focus only on elements that support the core of your story and leave out the rest. And yes, sometimes it's hard to leave out elements you really like, but your audience will be grateful when your story has a clear focus.

Also, practice in the way that feels right for you. Some people practice telling their story in front of friends who they know will give them honest feedback. Other people record themselves telling the story and then just watch the video or listen to the audio themselves.

WHAT IS A GOOD STORY?

Stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end and often begin with a time marker or mention a place.

Stories we care about involve a transformation or a transition of some kind. By the end of the story the main character (you) has changed in some way or reveals something that was unknown at the start.

Great stories show a variety of emotions, have vivid details (colours, names, smells, sounds, ...) and a good balance between advancing the plot and expanding on

some crucial moments. And there is at least one element of surprise, something happens that the audience doesn't expect.

WHY TELLING MY STORY?

It can be an overwhelming experience to tell a personal story in front of a live audience, to show authentic emotions and share what you care for, what is important to you.

Storytellers have told us how amazing that experience is and how you can feel, when the audience connects with you through your story. For others, the rehearsal process itself was very rewarding: learning more about yourself, and sometimes even finding out why this particular story is so important to you.

HOW TO GET ON THE LIST

There will be a maximum of 10 storytellers who tell stories each night. Please contact us in advance of the event at geneva@storyspark.ch to tell us you're interested in telling a story. We will have a short phone call with you where we ask you to describe your story. From the people interested, we will select a few tellers in advance. If you receive an invitation from us you will be guaranteed a spot on the list for the night.

Alternatively, you can simply show up the night of the event. There will be a hat that you can toss your name into, and some tellers' names will be drawn at random.

LEARN FROM OTHERS

Especially if you're new to storytelling, it's helpful to learn from other storytellers. Here are some resources:

- The Moth: [Storytelling Tips & Tricks](#)
- [The Moths Podcast](#). Subscribe and listen to some amazing true stories.
- How to tell a story: stories.co.uk