



creating connections ~ one story at a time

STORYTELLING TIPS:

1. Tell a true (personal) story. Choose a story that has meaning to you.
2. Organize your story with a beginning, middle, ending (your last line should be clear in your head) . . . and a point
3. You can start in the action (middle) and set up the stakes (your first line should be clear in your head)
4. Make the story succinct and have the point be obvious – but your method of getting to the point may be surprising and have punch.
5. Add lots of details so that listeners can picture themselves in the story.
6. Get your body and emotions into the story.
7. Don't worry about being funny or serious or both; just be yourself. A good time to get serious is right after a laugh.
8. Don't memorize, just remember an outline, your beginning, ending and a few lines of plot; storytelling is an oral art, not a literary recital
9. Don't rant; this is a place for stories, not lectures
10. Relax, breathe, play
11. Take time to finish. Look at people, smile, and enjoy their appreciation -- it's their chance to give you something back

"That's how people live, . . . by telling stories. What's the first thing a kid says when he learns how to talk? 'Tell me a story.' That's how we understand who we are, where we come from. Stories are everything.

~ Middlesex by Jeffery Eugenide,

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