

# WORKSHEET

## DEVELOPING YOUR STORY OF SELF

Before you decide what part of your story to tell, think about these questions:

- What will I be calling others to do?
- What values move me to take action and might also inspire others to similar action?
- What stories can I tell from my own life about specific people or events that would show (rather than tell) how I learned or acted on those values?

What are the experiences in your life that have shaped the values that call you to leadership in this campaign?

FAMILY & CHILDHOOD	LIFE CHOICES	ORGANIZING EXPERIENCES
Parents / Family	School	First Experience of organizing
Growing Up	Career	Connection to key books or people
Your Community	Partner / Family	Role Models
Role Models	Hobbies / Interests / Talents	
School	Faith	
	Overcoming Challenge(s)	

Think about the challenge, choice, outcome, and ask in your story. The outcome might be what you learned, in addition to what happened. A story does not have to be dramatic to be effective!

Try drawing pictures here instead of words. Powerful stories leave your listeners with detailed images in their minds that shape their understanding of you and your calling.

CHALLENGE	CHOICE	OUTCOME	ASK

*Originally adapted from the works of Marshall Ganz of Harvard University Modified by The New Organizing Institute. Includes definitions and contributions from the Midwest Academy and PPFA Staff.*

*Latest edition of this worksheet was taught in 2018 Virginia Progressive Leadership Training, cohort 5.*

# COACHING YOUR TEAM'S "STORY OF SELF"

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As you hear each other's stories, keeping track of the details of each person's story will help you to provide coaching and remember details about people on your team later. Use the grid below to track your team's stories in words or images.

NAME	VALUES	CHALLENGE	CHOICE	OUTCOME

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# COACHING TIPS

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Remember to balance both positive and constructive coaching. The purpose of the coaching is to listen to the way stories are told and to think of ways that the storytelling could be improved.

Don't simply offer vague "feel good" comments. ("That was a really great story!" "Good job!")  
Do coach each other on the following points:

- **THE CHALLENGE:** What were the specific challenges the storyteller faced? Did the storyteller paint a vivid picture of those challenges?
  - "When you described \_\_\_\_\_, I got a clear picture of the challenge." I understand the challenge to be. Is that what you intended?"
- **THE CHOICE:** Was there a choice that was made in response to each challenge? How did the choice make you feel? (Hopeful? Angry?)
  - "To me, the choice you made was \_\_\_\_\_, and it made me feel \_\_\_\_\_."
  - "It would be helpful if you focused on the moment you made a choice."
- **THE OUTCOME:** What was the specific outcome that resulted from each choice? What does that outcome teach us?
  - "I understand the outcome was \_\_\_\_\_, and it teaches me \_\_\_\_\_. But how does it relate to your work now?"
- **THE VALUES:** Could you identify what this person's values are and where they came from? How did the story make you feel?
  - "Your story made me feel \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."
  - "It's clear from your story that you value \_\_\_\_\_; but it could be even clearer if you told a story about where that value comes from."
- **DETAILS:** Were there sections of the story that had especially good details or images (e.g. sights, sounds, smells, or emotions of the moment)?
  - "The image of \_\_\_\_\_ really helped me identify with what you were feeling."
  - "Try telling more details about \_\_\_\_\_ so we can imagine what you were experiencing."

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