



Reframing the Narrative: Transformative Storytelling Skills for Social Justice



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YWCA Madison 2018 Racial Justice Summit



Anjali's Work

- **2013 - 2018: *Yoni Ki Baat: Stories from Women & Nonbinary Folks of Color***



- **History:** from the Bay Area in the 90s to UW-Madison in 2009
- **Evolution:** from a South Asian American feminist group to a radical & diverse collective
- **Our future:** a touring ensemble, workshops, and guest directors from the community

Storytelling as Creative Resistance

- The art making process
 - Peer feedback & critique
 - Drawing from pre-existing skills & talents
 - Developing an artistic practice
- The final project
 - Celebratory
 - Loving
 - Healing
- Building an intentional artist community
 - Other projects and collaborations
 - Professional opportunities

Praxis, or turning theory into practice



- Education
 - Peer-led, political, radical
- Collaboration
 - Sharing access & resources
 - Doing the work in our own communities
- Communication
 - Harm reduction
 - Restorative
- Solidarity
 - Centering the margins
 - Promoting self-care

Telling Your Story

- Group exercise...
 - What are some of your favorite stories?
 - What made them so compelling (elements, genre, etc.)?
 - How did they affect you and why?

- Exercise in pairs...
 - The origins of your name; 2 minutes each.

- What story do you want to tell today?



Constructing a Story

Important elements to keep in mind...

- **Establishing setting, characters, conflict & resolution.**
- **Story should have a beginning, middle and end.**
- **Know your audience & appeal to their values.**
- **Develop a “grab,” or the key phrase that will establish a connection between your story and the audience.**

Value Setting in Storytelling

- **Quite simply; what does your primary audience value in a story about your work?**
- **Examples:**
 - **Funders = fund stewardship;**
 - **Community partners = shared vision/mission;**
 - **People served = autonomy, safety, & empowerment**

Responding to and Evoking Values

- **“We are grateful to be part of a thriving ecosystem of community partners who share our vision of amplifying youth voices.”**
- **Key values: Teamwork, humility, self-determination, acknowledgement.**

Navigating Impact

- Consent informs authenticity, safety and respect.
- Consent is ongoing (asking participants each time their story is shared (verbally, in print, digitally, etc.)).
- “Can I share your story?” and continue the conversation from there.
 - Assessing participant boundaries (e.g. What is off limits)
 - Respecting these limits, as the storyteller.