



Storytelling

A guide to help
you write your
story

A Workshop Reaction to Jeremy's Story

- What are some details or moments from the story that stick out to you?
- Was there any part of the story that was unclear to you? Any moments that caused your attention to drift?
- How would you describe the style and/or voice of the piece? Of Jeremy as a storyteller?
- How might this story change someone's perception of the LGBTQ+ community?

Ground your Audience by Giving The W's

Who: Your story is about YOU. There may be a significant other character(s) but we want to know who you are when the story begins so we can see how you are different by the end.

Where: city, state, country, exact location?

When: time period, era, age

What: What's the conflict? What is at stake? What is the desire?

Scene Versus Summary

Scene: Should be used for significant action in the story. If this is an important moment in the story, then we should see it. Scene doesn't necessarily mean long. It means the audience gets to experience it with their senses.

Summary: Should be used for linking events. (Something funny happened on the way) The teller gives a reader's digest of a scene. (Do we need to see Chakalaka made?)

The best stories know how to mix scene and summary. A story that is all scene gets tedious and endangers giving significance to every moment and thus struggles to get the right energy at key moments. A story that is all summary is too passive. You can also mix elements of scene into summary.

Knowing your BEGINNING<MIDDLE<END will keep you from wandering

The Beginning

Start in scene or with a brief introduction to “YOU”

Establish your W’s

Get your audience hooked
(humor, imagery, plot)

The Middle

Let Action lead the way/What happens next/Intersperse Reflection

Keep increasing the tension? What are the obstacles?

The height of action/emotion leads us to the end

The End

Falling Action...”I went home after that..”

What did you learn? How are you different?

The closing line

ACTION

the fact or process of doing something, typically with an aim.

Each action leads to the next action...decision...set of choices..the climax

Action Points/Scenes

The Beginning

1. Inciting Incident: Establishes who we are, what's at stake, reveals the problem

The Middle

2.

mini reflections

3.

4. The height. The most important decision. The worst thing that happens. The redemption. I finally got it.

The End

5. Revelation



The Action Points/Scenes in Jeremy's Story

The Beginning

1. I made Chakalaka, Andy gets sick

The Middle

2. Andy's Mother wants his kidney's checked, he has polyps in his gallbladder.
3. Surgery is scheduled.(Reflection on fears and LGBTQ marriage...our struggle)
4. Day of Surgery (waiting room, cafeteria)
5. Climax: Doctor says Andy is out of surgery and doing well

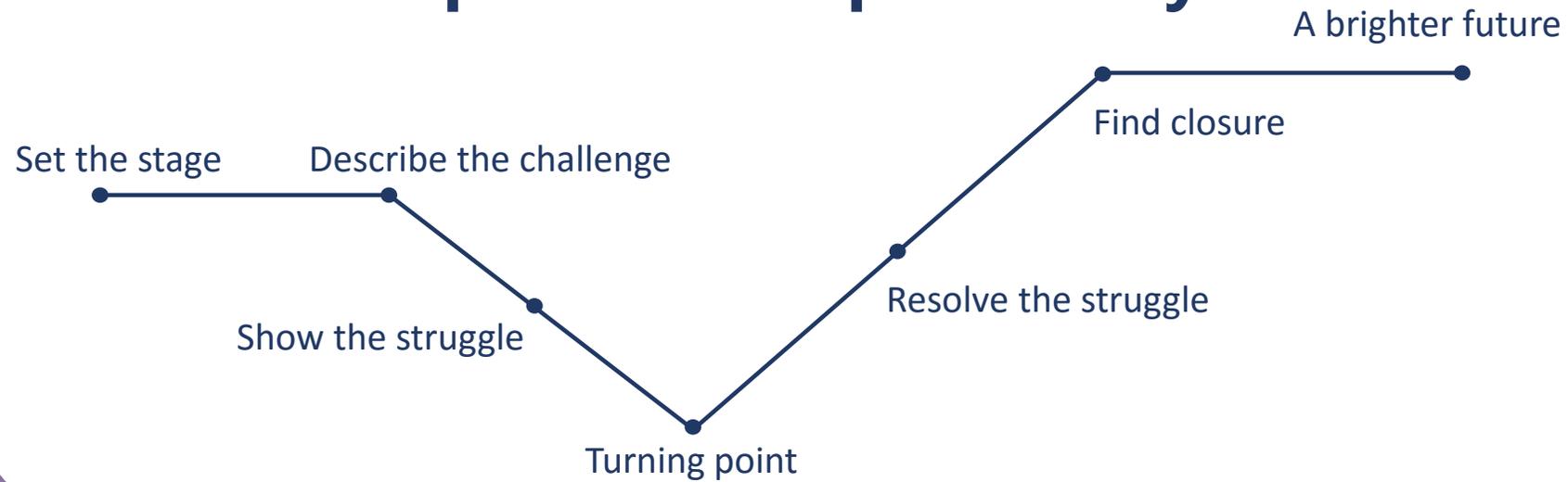
The End

2. Ending: With husband in the recovery room

Tips that will Strengthen your Story

- Your opening and closing lines
- Present Tense
- Appealing to the five senses (especially touch, taste and smell)
- Dialogue
- Using humor to lighten the struggle/Reflections on the world
- Break the Fourth Wall

Spin a Redemptive Story



**“And you and you and you – you have
to give people hope.”**

- Harvey Milk

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

Kim L. Hunt

khunt@aidschicago.org