

FINDING STORIES – Telling Stories

“Why do we tell stories? It does indeed have something to do with faith. Faith that the universe has some meaning, that our little human lives are not irrelevant, that what we choose or say or do matters, matters cosmically.” -- Madeleine L'Engle, author.

As a storyteller, it is your job to ask what stories need to be told? The stories you choose to explore should be of interest to you. No matter what the tools you use, a story is about sharing experiences and exploring ideas.

CATEGORIES of STORIES

CULTURAL

Family recipes, celebrations, traditions, beliefs, the balance of keeping former culture within a new American home, family roles, gender roles, youth and elders in your community... Cultural stories explore what defines your life and your community.

ISSUES

What are the issues you, your family and friends experience in Nashville? Transportation, health issues, access to education, jobs, discrimination, how your family has been impacted by the recession, the influence of media on your community after something happens in the news, political issues as you see them...

NEWS & EVENTS

Observe what is going on and listen to what people are talking about. If something happens in your community, good or bad, take your camera and ask a few questions. In your story you might briefly explain what happened and then introduce someone you interviewed to talk about it. News stories often reveal answers to five universal questions... **Who** was involved, **What** happened, **When**, **Where** and **Why**.

DAY TO DAY LIFE

Often our daily lives seem unremarkable, but the day to day experiences we consider normal may be exceptional to someone else. Sometimes reflection brings new meaning to the mundane. Breaking apart our day to day life can provide a great source of stories. Think about the role of a poet, songwriter or comedian. These are storytellers, they make observations about life that people often take for granted, but when presented in a new light become funny, cause us to reflect or capture a moment. What you normally do for fun, daily trips to the bakery, coffee shop, what you think of school... These stories might read like a diary and provide a snapshot of life to share with others.