

RESIST. REVOLT.

Personal Story Handout

The personal is political. Your story is proof the system can be changed.

The Basics

Why do we tell personal stories? Organizing is simply the work of building relationships between working people, and those relationships are built by sharing our stories. A story rooted in real experience and real values cuts through the isolation this system depends on. It connects voters and comrades to each other and to the movement.

When do we share our stories?

- Meeting with a potential new comrade
- At a team meeting
- On the phone with a voter
- After a volunteer shift
- Speaking to a high school or college class
- At a community event
- Any time before you make an ask

Best practices

- Know your audience
- Be brief; don't ramble
- Be genuine
- Be honest
- Be vulnerable
- Expect your story to grow as your consciousness grows
- Practice, practice, practice!

Telling Your Personal Story

Story of Self	Why you were called into this struggle. It reveals your values and why you chose to act on them. It centers the hardships you have faced under this system, the choices you made in response, and what came of those choices.
Story of Us	The story of our movement. It links your values to the listener's, and both to the shared interests of the working class. A Story of Us invites the listener to stop struggling alone and become part of something far bigger than themselves.
Story of Now	The choice in front of us and the future we can build if we act together. It grows from the values in your Story of Self and Us, and names the injustice that contradicts them and demands action now. Urgent. Always ends with an ask.