

*It's not my job to come up w/ solutions
my job is to help them come up w/ solutions*

**Center for Digital Storytelling: Train the Trainer
Storycircle Facilitation Questions**

Facilitator responsibilities:

1. Present Ground Rules:
 - a. Wait until the Storyteller is done before asking questions or making comments.
 - b. Share an appreciative comment first.
 - c. Preface suggestion statements with: "If it were my story, I would..."
 - d. If others have made a similar comment please refrain from repeating.
2. Allow a pause following Storyteller's presentation.
3. Thank the Storyteller for sharing.
4. Ask the Storyteller if there is anything they would like specific feedback about.
5. Synthesize group feedback for storyteller before moving on to next person.

As facilitator your most important responsibility is to provide a safe group environment in which people feel comfortable sharing ideas. It is not your responsibility to generate the solutions yourself. With that in mind, please refrain from asking leading questions during the Story Circle. Here are some open-ended questions that may be useful when you are facilitating a Digital Storytelling Story Circle. They are organized by the 7 Elements.

General Facilitation Questions:

- Would you like to receive feedback from the group?
- Is there anything we can give you feedback on?
- Do you have any questions for the group?
- Is this the first time you shared this story aloud?

*the more specific
you can be, the
better.
model appreciative
comments.*

Point of View Questions:

- Why is this story important now?
- Why are you telling this story?
- Do you have an intended audience?
- Have you told this story to anyone else?
- What is YOUR story? (or what is your version of the story?)
- What is specifically unique to your story?
- What is the gist of your story?
- What is the most important part of the story?
- Are there parts that are dispensable? (Indispensable?)
- I would choose one point of view.
- Tell them what parts were compelling to you as listener.

Dramatic Question Questions:

Have you thought about how to structure your story?

There are many ways to structure this story... What thoughts do you have?

Is there a moment of change?

Is a question answered?

Where is the decisive action?

What in the middle of the story is important?

Can your story be restated as a letter?

Will a digital retelling add to the impact of this story?

Think of reshaping the story into thought bubbles... What would they include?

What would be one scene you could share? (sounds, smells, etc.)

Emotional Content:

How does it feel to read this aloud?

What is your desired tone?

How did this change you?

What is the dramatic landscape? (Does the tone change over the story?)

Pacing:

How is the story paced?

Do you want to change the pace? When and how?

Economy:

What images do you have in mind in your story?

General Facilitation Clarifying Questions:

I hear you saying... Is this what you wanted to say?

Let's come back to their/your story. What do you need?

General Facilitation Closing Questions:

Are there any more comments or questions?

Do you have enough feedback to work with?