



WORKSHEET: DEVELOPING YOUR STORY OF US

The purpose of the story of us is to create a sense of community among individuals who may or may not yet see themselves as a community and to give them hope that they can make a difference. It builds on shared experiences and outcomes of previous actions to establish the context in which to take future action. Your goal here is to tell a story that evokes our shared values as your audience, and shows why we in particular are called to take responsibility for action now.

Your story of us may be a story of what we've already done together, challenges we've already faced and outcomes we've achieved. Or it may be a story of some of our shared heroes, challenges they faced and outcomes they've achieved. Hearing how we've met challenges in the past gives us hope that we can face new challenges together.

Brainstorm all the stories you know of about your audience and their collective story and experience. Your story of us may change each time you are talking to a different group of people as you create new community with them.

What are some stories heard in this class, either in the readings or by your classmates, give you the belief that together others could work to join you in creating real tangible change in the world?

What stories from this class have emerged to give you a sense of the shared values and challenges of the people in this room?

What values do we—our community of “us”—share?

What specific experiences have you had with this community that reflect those values?

Now choose one of the stories you brainstormed above to flesh out in vivid detail. Remember, you can use this space to draw pictures instead of writing words, to help you think about where to add detail and nuance in your story.

CHALLENGE What was the challenge we faced? What's the root of that challenge?	CHOICE What specific choice did we make? What action did we take?	OUTCOME What happened as a result of our choice? What hope can it give us?