Reclaiming Voice:

Using Digital Storytelling to Support Sexual Assault Survivors in Speaking Out

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Agenda

Overview of the Digital Storytelling Methodology
Theoretical Basis for Working with Survivor Stories
Survivor-Informed Approaches to Practice
Telling Your Story: Hands-On Writing and Sharing
Questions and Discussion

View Story
Overview of the Digital Storytelling Methodology

Pioneered by StoryCenter (formerly Center for Digital Storytelling)

Centralizes First-Person Voice

Workshop Approach: The Value of Creating Stories in a Group

A Form of Community-Based Participatory Media

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Theoretical Basis for Working With Survivor Stories

Narrative and Art Therapy

Feminist Approaches

Brain – Body Based Approaches

Popular Education and Testimony
Survivor-Informed Approaches to Practice: Workshops

Involve Skilled Practitioners, Clinicians, and Advocates

Be Clear and Transparent About Project Goals

Carefully Screen Potential Workshop Participants

Attend to Issues of Culture and Safety

Allow Adequate TIME …

Survivor-Informed Approaches to Practice: Workshops

Develop and Use Clear Story Prompts

Tread Lightly in Offering Feedback (be attuned to participants!)

Focus Discussion on “Seven Steps” of Digital Storytelling:

- Owning Your Insight
- Owning Your Emotion
- Finding a Moment
- Sharing Your Story
- Seeing Your Story
- Healing Your Story
- Assembling Your Story
Survivor-Informed Approaches to Practice: Distribution

View Consent as a Process, Not as a “One Off” Activity

Ensure Adequate Workshop Follow Up and Support

Involve Storytellers in Distribution Planning

Contextualize Stories Depending on Audience / Venue

Prepare Storytellers for Publicly Sharing Stories: Prepare Audiences for Viewing Survivor Stories

Telling Your Story: Hands-On Writing and Sharing Writing Prompts

Find Paper and a Pen

Take 15 Minutes to Write a Story About:

- A moment when you felt unsafe
- A time when you felt deeply called to your work as an advocate
- A situation when you stood up for someone’s rights
Questions and Discussion

Thank You!

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