

## Guidelines for Telling Your Story to a Medium-Size Group

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1. Form a circle with about eight members.
2. Use a talking piece to determine who is telling, and who is listening (see below).
3. Each person has an opportunity to tell one story of approximately 1-5 minutes, following the pattern below; the source of the story could be family, school, or religion.
4. After each telling, affirm the person's effort by clapping.
5. After you have gone around the circle once, if anyone has passed, see if they would like to tell now; if so, give them the talking piece.
6. When all the telling is done, set down the talking piece and discuss the experience in normal discussion mode.

## How to Use a Talking Piece

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A talking piece is an object that is passed from one person to the next to indicate whose turn it is to talk, and whose turn it is to listen.

After the circle says, "Let's hear your story!" only the person holding the talking piece should talk; everyone else listens. There are no questions, comments, or side conversations.

When the person is done talking and the circle has shown its appreciation, he or she passes the talking piece to the next person.

If the person does not want to talk, they just pass the talking piece on to the next person.

## Pattern for Telling a Story

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1. Teller says: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_. There is something I would like to remember with you. It is a story I would like to share."
2. Circle responds: "Let's hear your story!"
3. The story is told. End with, "That is my story."
4. Circle responds: "Thank you!" and claps.