

Story Prompts

Finding stories in your coalition

Storytelling is a powerful tool. Stories can share lived experience in unique and powerful ways. Everyone has a story to tell. However, it can be hard to for people to figure out the best way to share their tobacco story. Use the following prompts to help find stories from local staff/coalition members/volunteers in the communities you work with.

Story prompt ideas

Use these prompts to help people start telling their story.

Tell About a Time...

- Tell about a time when you were proud of your local tobacco prevention and control work...
- Tell about a time when you saw a new tobacco product and what you thought...
- Tell about a time when your coalition didn't have the funding it needed to take an action...

Imagine If...

- Imagine if your community knew about all types of tobacco products and the negative impacts of using them...
- Imagine if everyone who wanted to quit using tobacco had the resources to do so...
- Imagine if it was easy for youth and young adults to make the healthy choice about tobacco...

The importance of a pivot

When someone is planning to use a story in their work, help them work on a pivot statement so they can transition from personal experience to talking about the broader, community-wide issues around tobacco.

For example: *"Speaker tells a personal story about their brother's cessation experience. **Pivot statement: My brother was able to access the resources he needed in order to quit, I think everyone should have access to those same resources. Speaker makes an educational statement around community-wide issue of cessation resources."***