



### **We Choose All of Us**

We are a people who choose  
A world where everyone is valued,  
where everyone is safe,  
where everyone can thrive.  
A world where love is love, and  
kindness is everything.  
Nothing less than this.  
Every day we choose love,  
and in this love, everyone belongs  
to beloved community.  
Everyone.

# 2018 We Choose All of Us Story Share Challenge

**W**e choose a world where everyone is valued, where everyone is safe, and where everyone can thrive. It all starts by telling your story.

Everyone has a story. When was the last time you told your story? When was the last time someone told you their story? How can storytelling lead to empathy and understanding?

Idaho students in 9th – 12th grade are invited to participate in the Story Share Challenge to build empathy and understanding in your school and community. This challenge is inspired by the ideas from Colum McCann and Narrative 4’s Story Exchange.

## **3 easy steps!**

### **Step 1 – Choose a theme for your story**

Choose from and respond to one of the following themes to get started:

- **Belonging to Community** – As people, we all have a deep need to be safe, belong, and be part of a community. Knowing and expanding the group of people you feel connected to is powerful. Who are your people? Share a time when you felt unconditional belonging and fully accepted for who you are.
- **Stronger Together** – As people, we are more similar than we are different, yet the ways we are different make us special and give us a unique perspective on the world. Our differences make us stronger together. Exploring and celebrating our unique differences, across identities of gender, race, etc., can help us shift our relationship to difference and see it as a strength instead of something to fear. Share a story about a time when you experienced how our differences and unique experiences made us stronger together.

- **Restoring Wholeness, Our Spirit, and Humanity** – Restoring our wholeness and humanity starts with connection to all the parts of ourselves, to each other, and to nature. Sometimes we forget and shut out a part of ourselves; it might be our mind and thoughts we don't like, our body and sensations that make us uncomfortable, or our spirit and passions that scare us. Sometimes we shut out others. Share a place and time when you felt most connected to yourself and everyone or everything around you or share a time when you showed responsibility and care for another person or the broader world and environment you live in.

## **Step 2 – Find a partner and share your story**

Next, partner with someone you don't know very well, then share your response to step 1 with your partner. Once you have each told your story, practice telling your partner's story back your partner in the first-person point-of-view. The retelling of your partner's story should take between 2-4 minutes.

Once you and your partner have had a chance to practice telling each other's stories, join two or three other groups and have each member of the larger group tell their partner's story using the first-person point-of-view.

## **Step 3 – Post your reflection by the deadline March 23, 2018, to be eligible to win!**

With your original partner, reflect on how hearing and telling someone else's story impacted you. Telling other people's stories using the first-person point-of-view is a way to truly put yourself in another person's shoes and practice empathy.

Make sure you have agreement from your partner to record and capture the debrief in writing, audio, or video to enter the challenge! Capture your reflection right away, either by making a short video, an audio clip, or a written or artistic/visual reflection. By capturing your reflection right away, the experience will still be fresh in your mind.

## **Awards**

- \$1,000 (up to five awards) - School-Wide Submission (over 75% of the student body needs to have participated in a story share.)
- \$500 (up to five awards) - Classroom/Club (i.e. English, Art, Debate, or any class or club)
- \$250 (up to ten awards) - Individual

All submissions must score over 80 points to be eligible for an award. All individuals, classes or schools who enter the Story Share Challenge will receive a We Choose All of Us T-shirt!

## **How to Submit Your Entry – Deadline March 23, 2018**

Thank you for choosing to participate in the We Choose All of Us Story Share Challenge! Now that you've completed the story share and debrief, here is what you need to know to submit your entry into the competition. You can submit in various file types. Here are the guidelines for each file type:

- **Video/Audio Files:** No more than 2 minutes in length.
- **Document:** No more than 250 words in length.
- **Photograph or Art Response:** Must be accompanied with a description, no more than 250 words in length.

The challenge ends on March 23, 2018, at 11:59 PM PT. Be sure to get your entries in prior to that time. Winners will be announced by April 10, 2018 on [www.WeChooseAllofUs.org](http://www.WeChooseAllofUs.org) and [www.OurGenderRevolution.org](http://www.OurGenderRevolution.org).

## Online (preferred)

To submit your entry, visit [www.WeChooseAllofUs.org](http://www.WeChooseAllofUs.org) and click on the “submit” button. Fill out the form, and then upload your file. You can upload a video or audio file, a document, and/or a photo.

## Email

Prefer to e-mail your entry? Send it to Lacey Sinn at [lacey@engagingvoices.org](mailto:lacey@engagingvoices.org) with the subject line “2018 High School Challenge.”

In your email, make sure to include the following:

- First and Last Name • School Name • Total Population of School
- Estimated percentage of students who participated in the Challenge
- Address (to send t-shirt(s) and/or award) • City • Email • T-Shirt Size(s) and number
- Whether you are submitting as part of your school, a classroom, a club, or on your own.

Please make sure you attach the file with your debrief. Please refer to file type guidelines listed above.

\*If your attachment is too large to email, please email [Lacey@engagingvoices.org](mailto:Lacey@engagingvoices.org) for an alternative.

## Eligibility

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Idaho high school students, those in 9th – 12th grade, are eligible to submit either as individuals, a classroom or club submission, or a school-wide submission with over 75% of the school participating in the Story Share Challenge.

## Scoring Matrix

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Schools, classrooms and individuals must score at least an 80 to be eligible for awards.

- 25 points - Using one the two themes for your story share and debrief.
- 25 points - Transformative power of the content of the stories being shared to create communities where We Choose All of Us.
- 25 points - Debrief video/audio is no more than two minutes long and clearly discusses empathy and connection. Debrief writing is 250-words long, answers the questions, and includes personal reflection on the story share process. Debrief art response is a visual photo with a 250-words long or less description of what the art response represents.
- 25 points - Debrief discusses how this activity will shape the way you show up in your community and what this activity does on a larger scale. How will you continue this practice in your everyday life? Could you organize another Story Share? Who would you include? Think about people whose stories don't get heard: think beyond the classroom and out into the hallways, the cafeteria, teachers' lounges, support staff, etc.
- 10 bonus points – Tag us on social media and include the hashtag #wechooseallofus Twitter: @ourgenrev Instagram: @ourgenrev Facebook: fb.com/ourgenrev



## Teacher's Guide for the Partner Story Share

**S**torytelling is a powerful way for people to connect with each other. It also asks students to be honest and vulnerable in the face of their story and their partner's story. Trust and community are the best ways for this Story Share Challenge to be successful. The following are ideas on how to set your students up for a successful partner story share.

1. Start by showing the student video that models a partner story share.
2. Talk about what students noticed, and any questions or concerns they have.
3. Remind them that the story they tell their partner will be shared by their partner, out loud, using the first-person point-of-view.
4. Encourage them to share stories that are meaningful to their lives, and that they're comfortable having another person share out loud in the class.
5. The stories need to stay in the classroom. The story share requires trust and openness.
6. Think about coming up with a community agreement that students have to agree to about what happens to the stories once they're shared. Emphasize trust and honoring each other's stories by keeping them in the context of the partner story share.

### How to Get Started:

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1. The partner story share is an exercise in which individuals are randomly paired off and each partner tells a story that illuminates one of the themes:
  - Stronger Together – Celebrating our differences across identities of gender, race, etc.
  - Belonging to Community – Knowing who are your people. Sharing a time when you felt unconditional belonging.
  - Restoring Wholeness, Our Spirit, and Humanity – Restoring connection to ourselves and one another.
2. Share with your students that the partner story share is about practicing deep listening. When one partner is telling their story, encourage students to listen closely, and if it helps them to remember, take notes. These notes will assist them as they are practicing telling their partner's story back to their partner. Some people are comfortable listening without taking notes, and that's fine too.
3. The partner story share is told, not read. Talk about this ahead of time so there are no surprises. After practicing, they will tell their partner's story from memory.

## Timing:

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Each group will spend 20-30 minutes telling their stories to each other and then practicing telling their partner's story back to them, in the first person point-of-view. The stories should run anywhere between 2 and 4 minutes each.

- Each student tells their partner's story in the first person point of view.
- The story is told, not read. It's all done from memory.
- The telling piece of the partner story share should last about 2-4 minutes. This means that each partner gets 2-4 minutes to tell the other partner's story.
- When the partner groups are ready, two to four partner groups should join together for a larger group and each partner will tell their partner's story as practiced using the first person point-of-view. A teacher or trusted adult should be present to facilitate sharing.
- Debrief as a large group immediately after the partner story share.

## Things to think about:

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1. Start by putting student partner groups together. Randomly partnering up students works well. Count off the number of students in your class, divide that number in half (for example, if you've got 28 students, on small pieces of paper make two sets of numbers from 1-14) and have the students come up and pick a piece of paper. They'll find their partner by seeing who has the same number.
2. When putting students into partner groups, be sure to create a safe(r) environment. If that means choosing partners for the students, do that. Otherwise, numbers work well.
3. Modeling is helpful. If you can find someone to be your partner and practice doing a partner story share in front of your students, it will give them an idea of the expectations. .
4. Spend time brainstorming possible stories students could tell connected to the themes—it's hard to come up with a story right on the spot.
5. You know your students. If you've been together since the beginning of the year, encourage them to really stop and reflect on a story they can share that addresses one of the themes. If your students aren't very well acquainted, go with one of the themes that will be easier for them to connect with.
6. The story share is a way to build community and empathy. Students may be hesitant at the start. Remind them they won't be telling their stories in front of the whole group, but in a small group of six (four or eight works, too, depending on how many students you have).
7. It is recommended to have an adult or another teacher with the small groups during the story share. It's important that the students feel safe telling their stories.

## Debrief Questions:

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1. What worked well?
2. What were some challenges?
3. What did the partner story share process teach you about empathy?
4. What would you do differently the next time?
5. How could you imagine using a partner story share in other classes, groups, or school clubs?
6. How could the story share be something that casts a wider net? Students sharing stories with

teachers or teachers sharing stories with staff? What are different pairings students think could be powerful?

7. How can storytelling lead to social change?

## **Capturing the Partner Story Share:**

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1. In order to be eligible for awards, your students need to reflect on the partner story share. There are a number of different ways to capture that reflection:
  - a. Short videos with students reflecting on their big take away from the story share. Videos should not be more than 2 minutes per person.
  - b. Short audio clips of students engaging in the story share, or talking afterward about what worked well, what the challenges were. Audio clips should not be more than 2 minutes.
  - c. Photograph or art response, along with a short written reflection, no more than 250 words. See d.
  - d. Short written reflections, no more than 250 words and responding to some of the following questions:
    - i. What worked well?
    - ii. What were some challenges?
    - iii. What did the partner story share process teach you about empathy?
    - iv. What was the most powerful moment in the story share process for you? Describe how that moment felt.
    - v. How could you imagine using a partner story share in other classes, groups, or school clubs?
    - vi. How could the story share be something that casts a wider net? Students sharing stories with teachers or teachers sharing stories with staff? What are different pairings students think could be powerful?
    - vii. Could you imagine doing a partner story share with your friends, family, or your community?

## **Post on Social Media**

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Talk to us on social media! Post with the hashtag #WeChooseAllofUs and tag @OurGenRev to get extra points towards your overall score! Pictures and videos are encouraged! There will also be bi-weekly drawings for additional prizes for everyone posting on our social media. Follow us to get more information.

Check the website [www.WeChooseAllofUs.org](http://www.WeChooseAllofUs.org) regularly. We'll be posting videos and updates throughout the challenge.