

ART STORIES

Stories have power. They delight, enchant, touch, teach, recall, inspire, motivate, challenge. They help us understand. They imprint a picture on our minds. Want to make a point or raise an issue? Tell a story. — Janet Litherland

Art Stories is a project begun by several former NAEA Division Directors in 2013. The goal was to create a series of videotaped inspirational stories told by art teachers from around the world. We have made a number of videos over the past two years at NAEA conventions, but unfortunately, even when edited, the video quality is not wonderful. We hope to eventually be able to complete professional recordings of art educators telling their stories, but for now we have decided to move to a written format. We have transcribed the stories already told and will be contacting those teachers to let them edit the stories if they desire. If we have the means at a future NAEA convention to professionally record the stories, we will contact those who have contributed to tell their story on video. We may also publish the stories in written form. Participation in the project by telling your story verbally or in writing indicates that we have your permission to use it in written form or on video. We hope that you will join us in this adventure to inspire other art educators through our own experiences. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of us. If you want to submit a story later, please send it to kmeng@bellsouth.net.

Thank you,

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Name _____

City, state _____

Email _____

Years taught _____

Grades taught _____

School where you are currently teaching _____

Other information you'd like to include _____

Tell us a story about... (check one)

- the moment you knew you were going to be an art educator.
- how arts touch student lives.
- the difference teaching art makes in your life.
- how you communicate the importance of the arts.
- how you, as an art educator, make a difference in others' lives.
- what you do to sustain yourself and grow as a professional.
- what professional leadership opportunities mean to you.
- how you know that what you are teaching enables students to achieve at the highest level.

Stories should be less than 1000 words, generally the amount that you could read in about 2 to 3 minutes. Please consider writing a story about an experience you have had with one of the topics listed above. If you want to write one while here at the convention, you can give it to any one of the former directors. If you want to write one later, please send it to kmeng@bellsouth.net. We really look forward to hearing and sharing your story!

Here are some tips for telling a compelling story:

1. Tell stories that mean something to you.
2. Start with a hook or provocative question or statement. This brings the audience in immediately and they want to know more.
3. Communicate the visual, auditory and/or kinesthetic aspects of an experience to evoke a more personal response from readers/listeners. Use illustrations and metaphors to add color to your story. As visual artists we understand the need for people to be able to “see” the story!
4. Much like writing lesson plans, begin with the end in mind. What is the point of the story? You might think about it as presenting a conflict/dilemma and resolution. Or an opportunity and the result of the experience.
5. Make sure the order of the story makes sense; many times chronologically works best.
6. Use pacing. Take out slow parts of the story and tell the story economically.
7. Nancy Duarte talks about the “STAR moment” (Something To Always Remember): What do you want the audience to feel? What do you want the audience to remember? What was the critical moment in the story? Make sure you know what message you want your audience to come away with, so that the story you’ve told is one your audience can retell, too.

<http://www.dragonflyeffect.com/blog/the-power-of-storytelling/>