

Telling Your Story

Developing Three Stories Using a Concept Map

A concept map is a visual organizer, and there is no right or wrong way to create a concept map, but thinking about the following aspects of your three stories may help you develop ideas for your stories. Start with a blank sheet of paper and make 3 circles, one for each of your stories. Then add lines radiating to other circles that are related aspects of each story. (See the example.) The questions below can help you fill in details appropriate for each of your stories. You do not need to incorporate all of these aspects into your “three stories” concept map. Use only those that are relevant and add others that are important for your topic.

My Personal Story

- How did I get started with this?
- What interests and excites me about it?
- What was I like when I was your age?
- What’s it like to do this work?
- What interesting stories or vignettes can I tell?
- What setbacks have I had?

My Research Story

- What’s important about this research? Why does it matter?
- What are the research questions? The design challenges?
- What do the objects of study look like? Show visuals.
- Where do we study this? Where is it found?
- Do the objects we study change over time?
- How do we study this? What observations do we make? What data?
- What instruments and technology do we use?
- Does this topic have economic costs or benefits to society?
- Is there money to be made in studying this or in the results of research?
- What are the mysteries of this topic?
- What do we still not know?

My Workplace Story

- Where do I work? Who employs me?
- How do scientists organize to study this?
- Who are the partners or research team? How are they managed?
- Does this topic have economic costs or benefits to society?
- Is there money to be made in studying this or in the results of research?
- Does your research project take a long time?