

STORYTELLING QUICK TIPS

The best told story is when you let the viewer feel like they are going through the experience with you. These tips and sample questions can help you tell your story in the most engaging way possible.

1. Start with warm-up questions to help you relax

- What is your name? What is the name of the person who had the disease?
- What is your relationship to that person? How old were you/the person?
- What year was it? What season was it?

2. Create a clear picture of life before the disease

- What did you/your loved one look like?
- What were your/their favorite things to do? What was your/their work, school, social life like?
- What were your/their hopes and dreams?
- Share a special memory.

3. Walk the viewer through what happened play by play

- Tell us about the day you first noticed something wasn't right
- What happened next? What do you remember about each development?
- What was it like when you...? (...first got sick, were told xyz, realized you could have died?)

4. Bring the story alive with colorful details

- What was the hospital room like? What did it smell like?
- What did the doctor look like?
- Describe...

5. Tell your story in plain language

Stay away from or explain language or medical terms that most people will not understand.

6. Share direct quotes

Try to remember people's actual words.

- What did the doctors say to you?
- What did you say when you heard...?

7. Share your feelings

Sometimes people speed through painful parts of their story or tell their story as simple facts. Slow down. Share your feelings and thoughts. It is okay to talk about hard topics.

- What was it like for you when you saw...?
- How did you feel when the doctor said...?
- At any time did you think you could have died?
- What do you miss the most about your loved one?

8. End your story by reflecting on your experience

- How are you/your loved one doing now?
- How has this experience changed your/their life?
- Is there any special message you want to tell people when you tell your story?
- What would you say to people who are questioning immunizing their children/themselves?

9. The final word

Before stopping, share anything else you would like to add. It does not matter if it is out of order.