

Sharing Your Mentor Story – Hints

Please contemplate three questions before beginning to write and or record your story:

1. **How did I get here? (to your current place of ministry);**
2. **What key person influenced me along the journey?; and**
3. **What advice do I have for others?**

Please attempt to keep your written story to 250 words or less and recorded story to 2.5 minutes.

Before you begin recording

Setting

A quiet space, especially if using the microphone in the camera/phone

Lighting should be relatively diffuse and neither in your eyes nor behind you, and bright enough to give you a clear image. Outdoors can be nice but not usually quiet.

You'll need camera/phone, microphone if available, some type of mount/tripod and/or an operator

Camera set up

Video should be horizontal, which is a challenge with phone cameras, and at the highest "HD" resolution setting (if you can adjust).

Newer phones have a decent quality "selfie" camera that's relatively wide angle if you don't have someone to operate the camera. Downside: if you hold there camera you will typically hold it in a way which covers the microphones. A mount is still a good idea if you're using a phone to record video.

Small camcorders often have a swing and turn screen so you can be in front of the camera and see what you look like.

If you're using a camera where you are seeing yourself, observe where the camera lens is and get used to taking so you look like you're talking to the viewer. Think of this like telling your story to a friend you've engaged in conversation.

Positioning

Position yourself in front of a relatively plain background, and be careful of back lighting or harsh overhead lighting.

Sit or stand comfortably. If you're sitting, be careful not to use a swivel or tilting chair.

Recording

Listen quietly for a moment. Is there any noise you can avoid? Silence your phone and other devices. Look for anything that might distract you and remove distractors from your line of vision.

Start the record function and relax a few seconds.

Before you begin talking to the audience, for posterity, say and spell your full name, as you would like them to be in text on the video. Include your title as well. When you start speaking, speak in a conversational voice, but loud enough to be talking past the “table” you can imagine is between you and the viewers.

If you introduce yourself as part of your story, give a pause before starting to talk about the first question. Videos often introduce using titles rather than the subject saying their name.

Try to present each question as part of the conversation. If you’re going to talk about a mentor, for instance, try something like, “When I first felt called to ministry, Pastor Mary Jones became my mentor and role model.”

If you feel the need to stop in a thought and don’t continue right away, pause and begin the thought again at a natural break point. This will allow a smooth edit if one is needed.

When you’ve completed the recording, be sure after the conclusion to smile and look at the camera for several seconds to allow the image to smoothly change. Don’t look away quickly, and stay quiet for a moment.

Other images

Still images, say of your mentor, and motion video can all make a more interesting video, enhancing the story and helping it move along. Still images need to be of sufficient resolution (HD video is 1920 X 1080 pixels) to edit into the video and ideally fit that aspect ratio (horizontal 16x9). Original digital files, scans or good still photos of images all will work within these parameters. If the images require titles or other text, be sure to include it, including correct spellings.

Thanks for telling your story!

All written stories and videos will begin to be posted throughout 2017 on the ABWIM Website. A great deal has been written, talked about on the importance of mentoring as well as small group. ABWIM is taking a giant leap forward to embrace, publish and reference resources for enhanced learning and rediscovery.

Please send or email your mentor story to either of the contacts listed below. You may contact either of the below for information on uploading your written story and or video:

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