

STORY WORKS ALASKA

Dear Wonderful Volunteers,

*Thank you for signing up to share your time with youth storytellers!
We are excited to see you all at Service High soon.*

Please grab some pizza, find a seat, and we'll get started soon.

Welcome!

Volunteer Training Agenda:

- Welcome and thank you. Again and again!

- Introductions:
 - Returning Volunteers and New/Possible Volunteers

- Logistics and FAQs: (Regan)
 - Fundamentals (Where to park, where to meet up?)
 - What are the students actually doing?
 - And how will we be listening and offering support?
 - Adult-Student Boundaries
 - Other questions?

- Words of Wisdom: (Rosey and Returning Volunteers)
 - What to expect
 - What not to expect
 - How to navigate it all with grace
 - Other questions?

Fundamentals:

Where to find the school:

Service High is located at 5577 Abbot Road, Anchorage, Alaska

Where to park:

The best spot to park is in the long lot near the flag pole. This lot is on the Abbot Road side of the building. This is a staff and volunteer lot but it isn't well labeled as such. Just make sure not to park in any area that's marked for students. If you end up in a rush and need to park in the student lot for some reason, just let me know and I will try to keep you from getting (or having to pay) a ticket.

Where to meet up:

We will be meeting at the main office. It is located just inside the entrance near the flagpole. Come on in, sign-in, get a lovely sticker, and then Ms. Zogas will lead us through the school to meet the students.

What to do if something goes awry and you end up running very late:

Take a deep breath, make sure you're OK, and, if you are, please give me a call or send a text (907-602-7428). If you arrive to the office a little late, please sit put until someone can escort you to the place where we'll be meeting the students. Alas, the halls can be confusing and we don't want you to get lost.

When to be there:

Please aim to be at Service (signing in and meeting up with me and the other story coaches) 15 min prior to your start time.

Please let me know if you'll have any problem getting there a little early. I am certain we can work something out.

What are the students doing?

What is their assignment?

The students have been assigned to create 5-7 min long true, first-person stories which they will ultimately share live in class. Some students will also have the opportunity to record their stories and/or submit them to storytelling events and other outlets.

What has happened and will happen during this storytelling unit?

When to be there:

Service High/ Seminar School Storytelling Workshop

Schedule:

Introduction (Feb. 10th): Workshops begin with a mini-story telling show (featuring three Storytellers) and a lively lesson on Story Telling basics (led by Arctic Entries' Story Board member and veteran Story Coach, Vik Patel).

In-between sessions: The students (approx. 300 9th-12th graders) begin developing their own stories in class and at home. They'll also share with peers and offer feedback --and encouragement.

Story Coaching (Feb 23-27): Volunteer Story Coaches visit all of the ten English classes involved. Story Coaches listen, offer guiding questions, and facilitate student feedback.

Student Storytelling (TBD) Students stories shared in-class. Storytelling schedules will be made available by teachers and volunteers are welcome to attend as their schedules permit. The teachers also plan to schedule an evening performance of selected student storytellers. Volunteers will be invited.

What will they have learned so far about storytelling? What are some of the tools and structures they have been encouraged to use?

For the purpose of this assignment they have been introduced to a very specific way of storytelling –with the caveat that there is no “right” way to tell a story.

To learn more about what was covered in the introductory lesson please take a look at the following documents:

- 1StoryWorksStudentIntroduction
- 2StoryWorksStudentStorytellingBasics4pp
- 4StoryWorksGettingStartedPromptsandOrganizer
- 5StoryWorksReadingNYTFeedbackArticle
- 7StoryWorksStudentTellingListeningNotes1

How will we be listening and offering support?

We recommend that individual Story Coaches follow this agenda when working with each small group (3-4 students). Note that there are times when this structure will not work. We will discuss these possibilities more in training.

Intro: (1x per group)

- Introduce yourself to your group, have them introduce themselves and ask them to please write their names on your “Listening Notes.”
- Ask who’d like to go first or just start with the person closest to you.
- Tell them that before they each start they will get a chance to tell you and the other students what they’d most like to get help with.
- Encourage light note taking and explain that you might be taking notes just to remember things.
- Encourage students to notice how each other’s stories have changed from previous tellings.
- Remind them that you’ll have about 10 min per person.

Storytelling, Listening, and Feedback: (1 x per student so 3x per group)

Students take turns telling stories. Each telling involves:

Pre:

Ask the storyteller to share what she or he would like listeners to focus on
Ask another student to time storyteller (timer should hold up fingers to indicate when they reach 4 min and 5 min)

During:

You and other students listen quietly and take notes

After:

Timer reports time and storyteller writes it down.
Allow students and yourself a short pause to finish jotting down notes
Remind storyteller to take notes on the feedback they receive
Have students share their feedback one at a time (especially encourage them to share strengths and questions)
When all student listeners have shared feedback you offer comments, questions, ideas, etc.

If you finish early, have fun! Ask questions about the other stories they’ve heard. Which ones did they like? Why? Or just talk about whatever comes up!

All other items on the training agenda are covered in additional documents. Please see:

Adult-Student Boundaries:

ASDAdultStudent_Boundaries

Words of Wisdom:

For_Story_Coaches

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