



#YALILEARNS



YALILearns Session Facilitation Guide

COMMUNITY JOURNALISM: BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE STORYTELLING

Your Guide to Facilitating a Session on Community Journalism: Basic Principles for Effective Storytelling

In conjunction with the YALI Network online course [Community Journalism: Basic Principles for Effective Storytelling](#), this guide will allow you to facilitate dialogue with members of your community. Participants will learn ways to empower community voices by discussing responsible journalism practices, tools available to create meaningful stories, the effects of traditional media, and media technologies to share stories across various platforms. **Total Time: 91 minutes**

Introduction (5 Minutes)

- Introduce yourself and thank your participants for attending your YALILearns session. Explain that you are a YALI Network member who wants to start a meaningful conversation about empowering community voices.
- Briefly share why you are interested in this topic.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

- Start the conversation by asking an icebreaker question.
- Choose a person to answer your question.
- The person will then introduce him/herself, answer the question posed by the host, and then select another person within the group to answer the icebreaker question.
- Continue to go around the group until everyone has responded to the icebreaker question or until 10 minutes have passed, whichever comes first.

Example Icebreaker Questions:

- Have each participant introduce themselves and share three to five traits they would use to describe themselves. If there is time, encourage participants to share why they have chosen those traits.

Watch Lesson 1: [The Principles of Journalism](#) (12 minutes)

Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

- Ask participants to reflect on the first lesson by discussing the following questions:
- What media are available for you to report on current events? What is the most accessible way to reach people in your local community?
- “When you see something on the internet, you should use three independent sources to verify it, just like when you’re writing a story.” Name at least three news or independent sources you can use to verify information online.
- Do you know any mentors or successful community journalists you can use as inspiration?



Watch Lesson 2: [Creating Your Stories](#) (15 minutes)

Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

After participants have had a chance to watch the second video, invite them to consider the discussion questions at the end of the lesson:

1. Further reflect on the similarities and differences of traditional and community journalists, news and information, and mainstream and underrepresented news media. Do you feel traditional news sources are doing a good job of empowering the voices of your community and telling stories of the underrepresented?
2. What are some current events or issues you want to bring attention to as a community journalist?

Watch Lesson 3: [Sharing Your Stories](#) (14 minutes)

Group Discussion (10 minutes)

Invite participants to answer the following questions:

- What specific media technologies (writing, still photography, video and sound media) do you often use to share stories?
- After reflecting on the lesson, are you going to incorporate other media technologies to share your stories?
- How will you improve your storytelling overall or through the use of media technology?

Wrapup (5 Minutes)

- Thank participants for attending your YALILearns event and briefly restate the importance of empowering voices in your community.
- Encourage participants to sign up for the YALI Network at yali.state.gov and visit yali.state.gov/speaks for additional resources and information.