Define Your Climate Justice Story

A Guided Group Activity for Educators

INTRODUCTION

Storytelling is a powerful tool for connecting culture and climate. Finding our own story and intentionally listening to and truly hearing the stories of others can help us cross the boundaries between one another and more authentically educate the public while developing a sense of belonging.

In the following activities you'll work in groups, pairs, and individually to find your own story, bring others into it, and hear those of others. The facilitator should lead each section with their own examples.

This is a condensed version of a workshop by Enrique Salmón, author of *Eating the Landscape* and *Iwígara: The Kinship of Plants and People*.

Time: 1–2 hours
Materials needed: Paper and pen

PART I: STORY OF SELF

Discover your connections to climate education and build a personal narrative that connects to climate action.

Step 1. Journal (5 minutes)

What makes you feel drawn to your current purpose? Why were you called to this work? Or, who is the person in your life who introduced you to your calling?

Step 2. Duets (10 minutes)

Pair educators to share their stories.

Step 3. Group Sharing (10 minutes)

Select a few stories to share with the full group. Discuss what worked well and what was revealed about the storytellers.

PART II: STORY OF US

Explore communal connections and shared histories, and strengthen the sense of belonging and collective responsibility toward the environment.

Step 1. Journal (5 minutes)

What community, culture, movement, or other group do you consider yourself part of? Do you participate in this community as a result of fate, choice, or both? How would you describe the communities or groups you hope to join in the future?

Step 2. Duets (10 minutes)

Pair educators to share their stories.
Alternate duet: Tell a story about a time you broke with your community? Or a time when you found a new community?

Step 3. Group Sharing (10 minutes)

Select a few stories to share with the full group.

PART III: STORIES OF NOW

Identify the audiences and specific actions for climate challenges and develop stories that call others to see and act on these visions.

Step 1. Journal (5 minutes)

What is your vision for climate action? What story will guide us to the vision you want to achieve? What specific actions do you want to take?

Step 2. Duets (10 minutes)

Share stories of vision and fear and discuss the urgent actions required for climate action.
Alternate duet: Tell a story about what you fear the most about your own vision?

Step 3. Group Sharing (10 minutes)

Select a few stories to share with the full group.

CONCLUSION

Storytelling is not just about sharing; it's about creating a collective vision and driving meaningful change together. Use the insights gained from this activity to continue engaging your community and advancing climate education with authenticity and purpose.