



SESSION PLAN: BUILDING A CODE OF ETHICS

Session Overview

A workshop and facilitated discussion on ethical storytelling and story gathering. Participants will collaboratively explore the principles of ethical storytelling, identify potential challenges, and draft a Code of Ethics to guide their work.

Session Aims

To deepen participants' understanding of ethical storytelling principles and collectively identify the core values and challenges of ethical storytelling. To create a draft Code of Ethics that reflects diverse perspectives that they can apply to their storytelling work.

Required Materials

- Flip chart or whiteboard (for group brainstorming and visual mapping).
- Markers and sticky notes (for brainstorming exercises).
- Printed scenarios or case studies (for ethical dilemma discussions). [EXAMPLE - Tulsi](#)
- Handouts or templates for drafting the Code of Ethics.
- A projector or screen (optional for visual presentations).

References

- [Cassandra Project Code of Ethics](#) (as a guiding example).
- Ethical Storytelling Principles (e.g., from nonprofits, journalism, or cultural organisations).
- Case studies of both successful and problematic storytelling practices.
- Academic references on storytelling ethics, such as articles on informed consent, cultural sensitivity, and representation.

Exercise & Time	Description	Desired Outcomes
Introduction and Framing (15 mins)	Start with an open question: <i>"Why is a code of ethics important in storytelling?"</i> Share a case study highlighting ethical storytelling done well (or poorly).	Participants understand the importance of a code of ethics and feel invested in the process. Recognise the potential risks and responsibilities involving storytelling.
Explore Core Values (20 mins)	In small groups, brainstorm such as questions: - <i>What values should underpin ethical storytelling?</i>	A shared list of core values (e.g., respect transparency) emerges to guide the code.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What does "transparency" mean in this context?</i> <p>Groups present their ideas, which are consolidated into a shared list.</p>	Participants understand how values like respect and responsibility apply to storytelling.
Identify Ethical Dilemmas (25 mins)	<p>Present scenarios and discuss, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A participant regrets sharing a personal story publicly. - A story unintentionally perpetuates stereotypes. <p>Reflect as a group on the key challenges and possible solutions.</p>	<p>Participants anticipate ethical challenges and consider practical solutions.</p> <p>Common themes and solutions are identified, shaping the code of ethics.</p>
4. Drafting the Code (30 mins)	<p>Divide participants into small groups. Assign each group to draft a section of the code, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect and Consent - Diversity and Representation <p>Groups present their drafts for discussion and refinement.</p>	<p>A collaboratively created draft code of ethics emerges, reflecting diverse perspectives.</p> <p>Participants feel ownership of the code and ensure it is clear and comprehensive.</p>
5. Reflection and Commitment (10 mins)	<p>Invite any reflections from the group and pose questions such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>"How can we ensure this code evolves over time?"</i> <p>Ask participants to sign their names to the final sheet if they agree to the code.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants feel personally connected to and responsible for upholding the code. - Practical strategies for using and evolving the code are identified.

