

# Story with a Gap

Type: Practicing



## What Is It?

Participants draw a series of pictures to identify the choices people make to reach a particular result.

## Why Use It?

Provides a visual way to explore situations and to analyze root causes

Identifies factors that affect the choices people make

Starts to identify how to help people make more positive choices

## How to Use It

1. Select an end result that could occur in a community. For example, 'family use a latrine properly' or 'young boy drinks safe water' or 'children are sick.' This will become the end of the story.
2. On the right-hand side of the page, ask participants to draw this situation. Encourage the participants to show who is involved, where it is happening, what is taking place etc. Label the drawing "Result."
3. Ask participants to make another drawing at the left-hand side of the page showing how the story started. Label this picture "Beginning".
4. Encourage the participants to think about the events that might have led to the "result." Ask them to fill the gap in the story by drawing two to five pictures between the start and finish.
5. Starting from "beginning," encourage the participants to identify the choices that were available to the person at each stage of the story. Ask them to identify the factors that led the person to move on to the next stage in the story. Ask them to write those factors below the picture.
6. When the activity is complete, encourage the participants to discuss what the story shows.
  - How could people be given more choices?
  - What other choices could the person have made?
  - Why do some people have few choices and other people have many choices?
  - How would those different choices have changed the story?
  - Who has power during each step of the story?

## Trainer Notes

This activity can be done individually or in small groups.

Encourage participants to think of a typical story rather than an 'extreme' or 'tragic' one. This will help make the activity more realistic and useful.

Stories with a gap work best when the story leading up to "result" occur over a short period of time (hours or days) rather than a long one (months or years).

It may be easier to use separate pieces of paper for each picture rather than one big piece of paper.