

# Storytelling

## Type: Sharing Ideas



### What Is It?

Participants discuss 'typical' stories about water, hygiene, and sanitation in order to identify the issues involved and what can be done about them.

### How to Use It

1. Before the activity, prepare a 'typical' story about water, hygiene, and sanitation in the community that is linked to your learning outcome. For example, it might be about the 'open defecation in our community' or 'people living with water-related illness, such as diarrhoea'. Include details but leave the story without an ending.
2. Share the story with the participants. Encourage them to listen carefully.
3. Ask the participants what they think about the story. For example, is it realistic? How does it make them feel? What issues does it highlight?
4. Divide larger groups of participants into groups of six or less. Ask each group of participants to come up with an ending to the story. Encourage them to use speaking, singing, drawing, and / or acting to communicate their ending.

### Trainer Notes

The storyteller can dress up and use props or different voices to make the story livelier.

### Variation

Participants create the stories: Ask participants to make up their own 'typical' story about water, hygiene, and sanitation in their community. Encourage participants to include lots of detail about the situation, people, places, and attitudes involved.

### Why Use It?

Provides a non-threatening way to identify the types of real-life situations and issues that affect people

Explores how people feel about those issues

Engages participants and allows them to relate to the 'story' situation

Begins to identify how to take action on those situations and issues

5. Ask the groups to share their endings.
6. When the activity is complete, encourage the participants to discuss what the story showed:
  - What did the story show about relations between people in the community?
  - What did it show about people's attitudes?
  - What did it show about problems related to the topic?
  - How could the situation be improved?

Collective storytelling: Share the first two to three sentences of a 'typical' story about the community. Then ask a volunteer to suggest the next two to three lines. Then ask another volunteer to suggest the next two to three lines. Keep going until the story reaches an end or has covered several important points.

Three-part story: Divide a 'typical' story into three parts. Share the first part with the participants. Then stop and ask questions, such as, 'How is the character feeling?' 'What do you think about what is happening?' Then repeat the process for the next two parts.