

# Storytelling *for Authentic Leadership*

Use these prompts to spark short, authentic stories you can share with students, colleagues, or staff:

- A mistake you made and what it taught you
- A challenge you faced and how you handled it
- A small win that felt meaningful
- A time someone showed you unexpected kindness
- A “behind-the-scenes” story your students wouldn’t usually see
- A moment you laughed and it lightened a tense situation
- A time a student or colleague surprised you with insight or creativity
- A funny or awkward moment in the classroom or workplace
- A moment when you felt proud of your team or students
- Something you learned from failure
- A story that shows your values or approach to teaching/leadership
- A time you tried something new and what happened

## Quick + Easy Storytelling Framework

**Source:** Start with a real-life story you already have - a personal experience, a memorable classroom or school moment, or even something you’ve observed in someone else.

**Purpose:** Once you’ve chosen your story, decide why you want to share it. Think about what lesson or value it highlights and who you hope to connect with by telling it.

**Key Elements:** Every good story has a few basics: the people involved, the challenge or conflict they faced, and the resolution or lesson learned.

**Delivery Tips:** Keep your story brief (ideally between 1-3 minutes). Use natural emotion - whether that’s humor, humility, or surprise - and make sure you tie the story back to your audience with a simple connection like, “This reminds me of...”

**Reflection/Follow-up:** Close by inviting others into the conversation. A simple question such as, “Has anyone else experienced this?” or “What would you do in that situation?” can open the door to connection.