

Policy can change when we put a face to our immigration issues. You have the power to influence lawmakers by sharing your story!



Telling Your Story

Who am I? What is your name, what parish do you attend? Where do you work, how many children do you have? What were your aspirations as a child? What values did your parents/schooling/culture instill in you? Each of us is a 3 dimensional human being with families, beliefs, responsibilities, a history and a future. Share details about your life that make you who you are today but at the same time are universal. Doing this at the beginning of your presentation will help you connect with your audience. Show your audience, “I’m like you in many ways.”

Why do I care for immigrants? What makes you qualified to talk about this? Are you affected? Is someone you love affected? What makes you so invested that you would speak so openly about such a controversial and complicated issue?

What is my story? Don’t just tell the facts. Tell a story. Think about a snapshot in time that illustrates to others the real life stories behind our broken immigration system. A phone call from a separated family member, learning English for the first time, a daughter’s graduation day, an encounter with elected officials. Draw upon this personal experience and then tell us how it made you feel. Angry? Frustrated? Hopeful? How did this emotion lead you to action?

Now, what am I going to do about it? What am I asking YOU to do about it? You are not just sharing your story for the sake of storytelling. What steps are you taking to make immigrants lives better? Share how you will be taking action and invite others to do the same.

PRACTICE. Practice telling your story to your family members, your friends, and your parish leaders. Ask them: 1) Does this make sense, 2) Do you feel a connection to my story? 3) Does it stir you to action?

Please contact Jackie Herrera at ICIRR for more information, (312) 332-7360 x. 21.

You’ve got the power to speak and make a difference!

