Tapping the Power of True Stories

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Enterprise Bank Non-Profit Collaborative



Your Personal Story

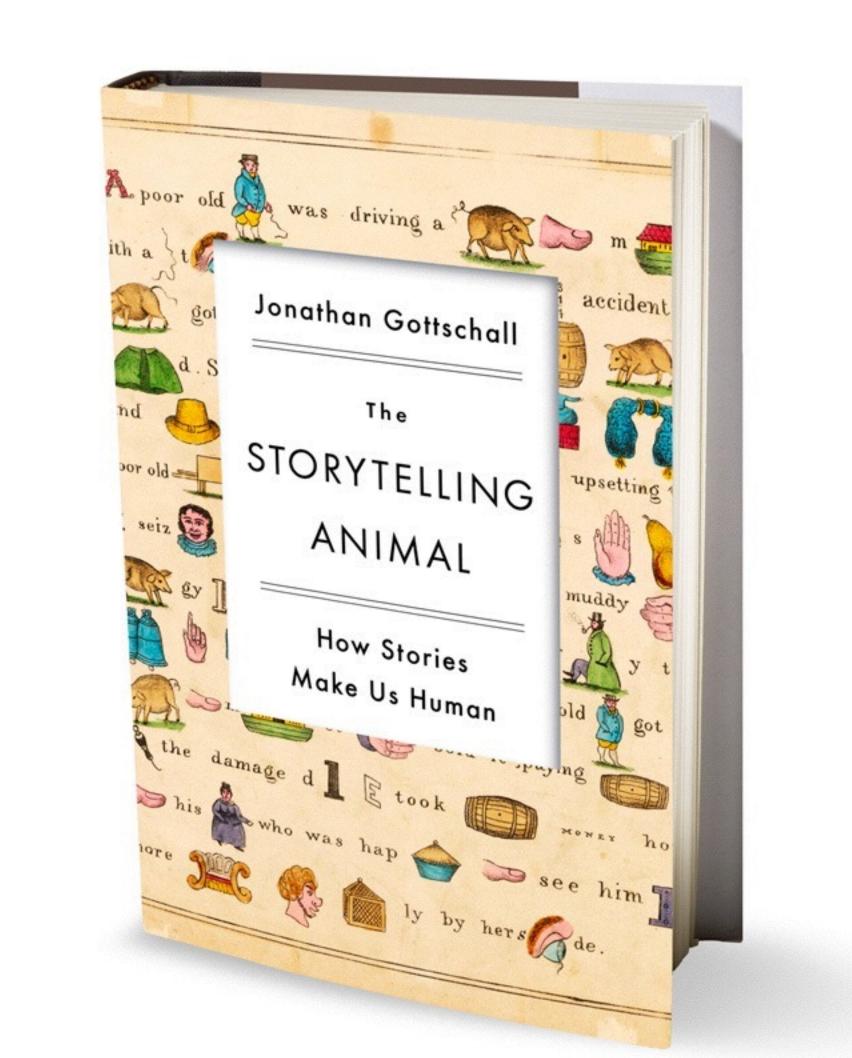
What is the story of how you came to work for/support your organization?

What is the story of why you decided to work for/support your organization?

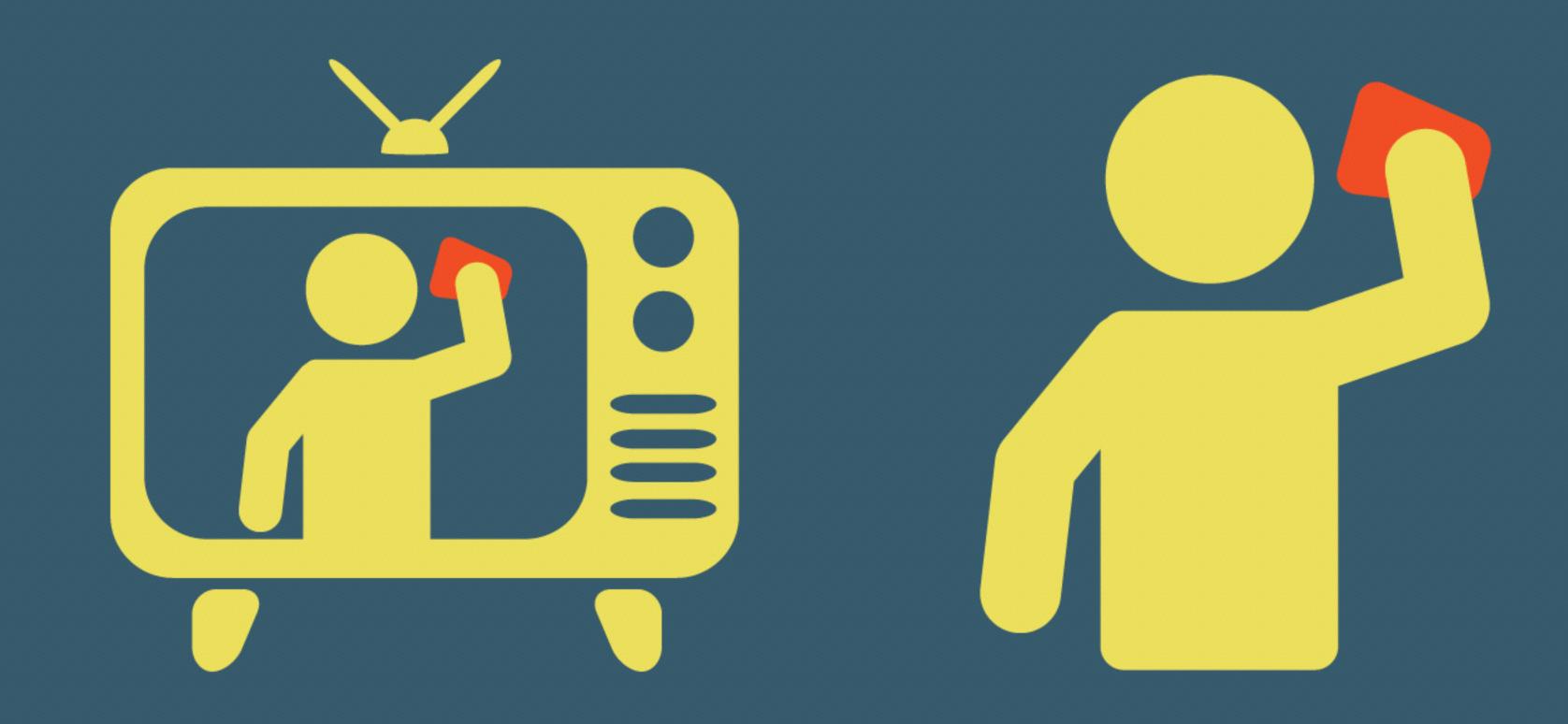
What is the story of an experience that made you say, "I want to support this organization" or "I am committed to this organization" What is the story of your growth or evolution in your organization What is the story of an experience that affirmed your commitment to your organization?

What is a story?

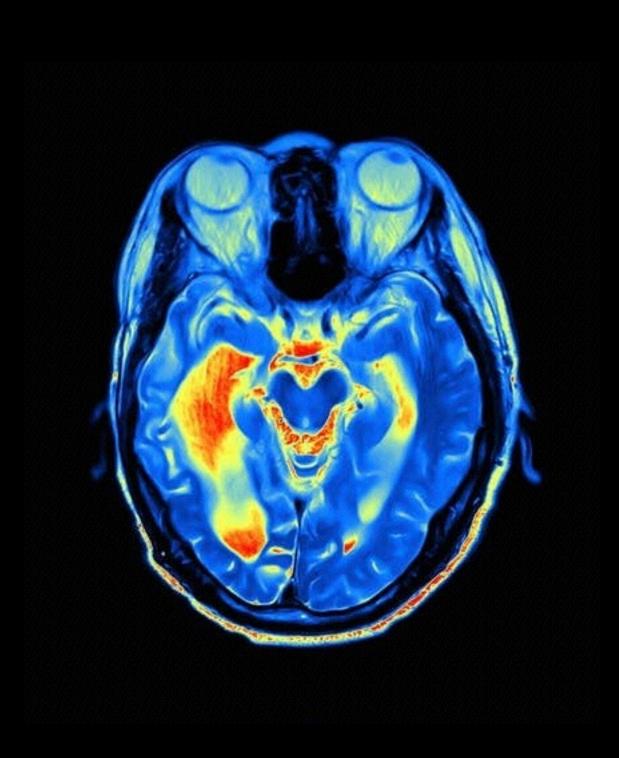


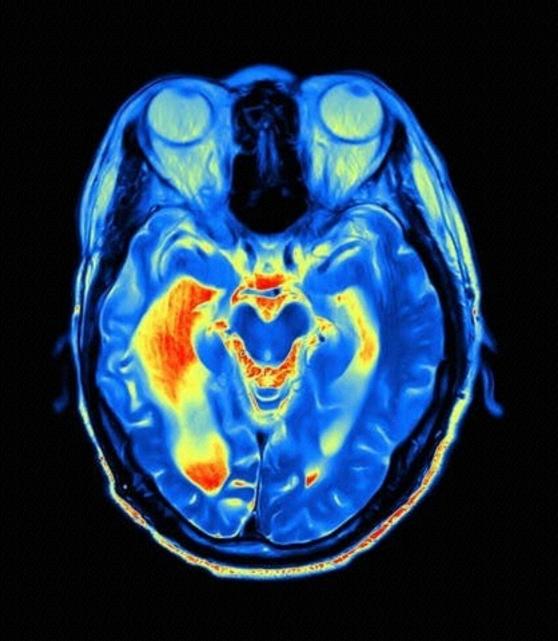


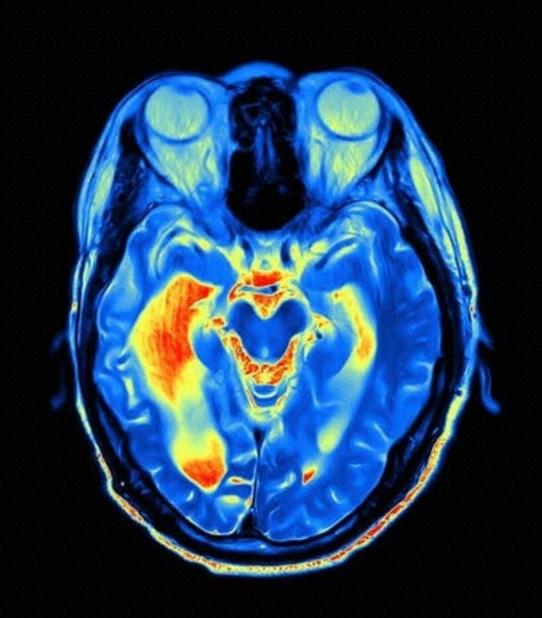


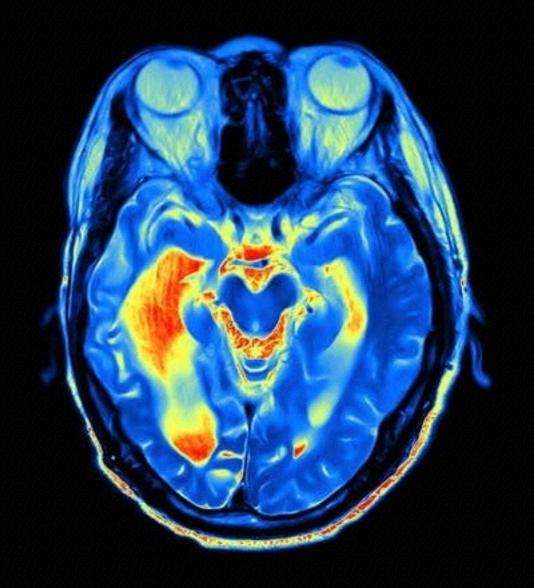


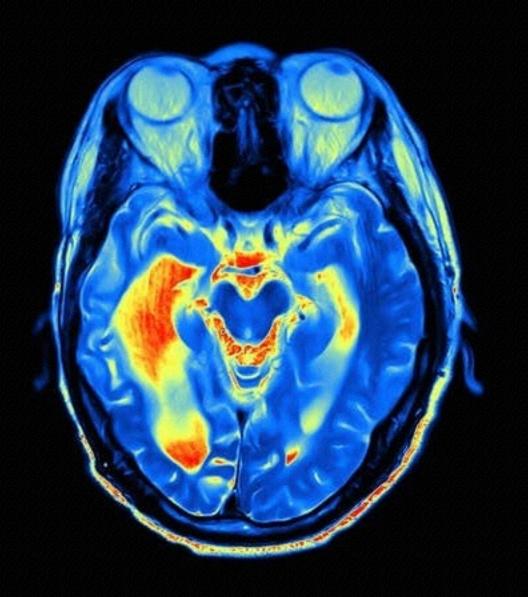


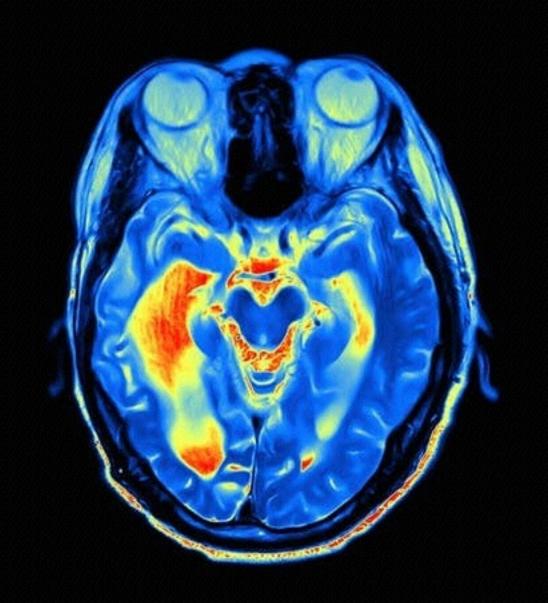












Mirror neurons in our brains re-create for us the distress we see on the screen. We have empathy for the fictional characters—we know how they're feeling—because we literally experience the same feelings ourselves."

– Marco Iacoboni, Mirror Neuron Researcher

Throughout History, Stories ...

Pass on values and culture

Teach important lessons

Warn others of danger

Explain complicated or abstract ideas and make them memorable

Persuade and inspire

What makes an effective story?

Defined audience
Clear purpose
Change

Defined Audience

Who do you think your story really speaks to? What are some of the defining characteristics of the ideal audience for that story? Why?

Who else do you think your story speaks to? Why?

What do you know about this audience? What kinds of stories do you think they are most receptive to?

Clear Purpose

What do you want?

What are you asking for?

What response do you want from your audience?

Clear Purpose

What story to tell

How to tell it

When to tell it

Change

What is the change that happens in your story?

Does your story do justice to that transformation?

What is at stake in this story?

Why should I pay attention?

Why should I get emotionally invested?

Gather
Develop
Tell

Gather

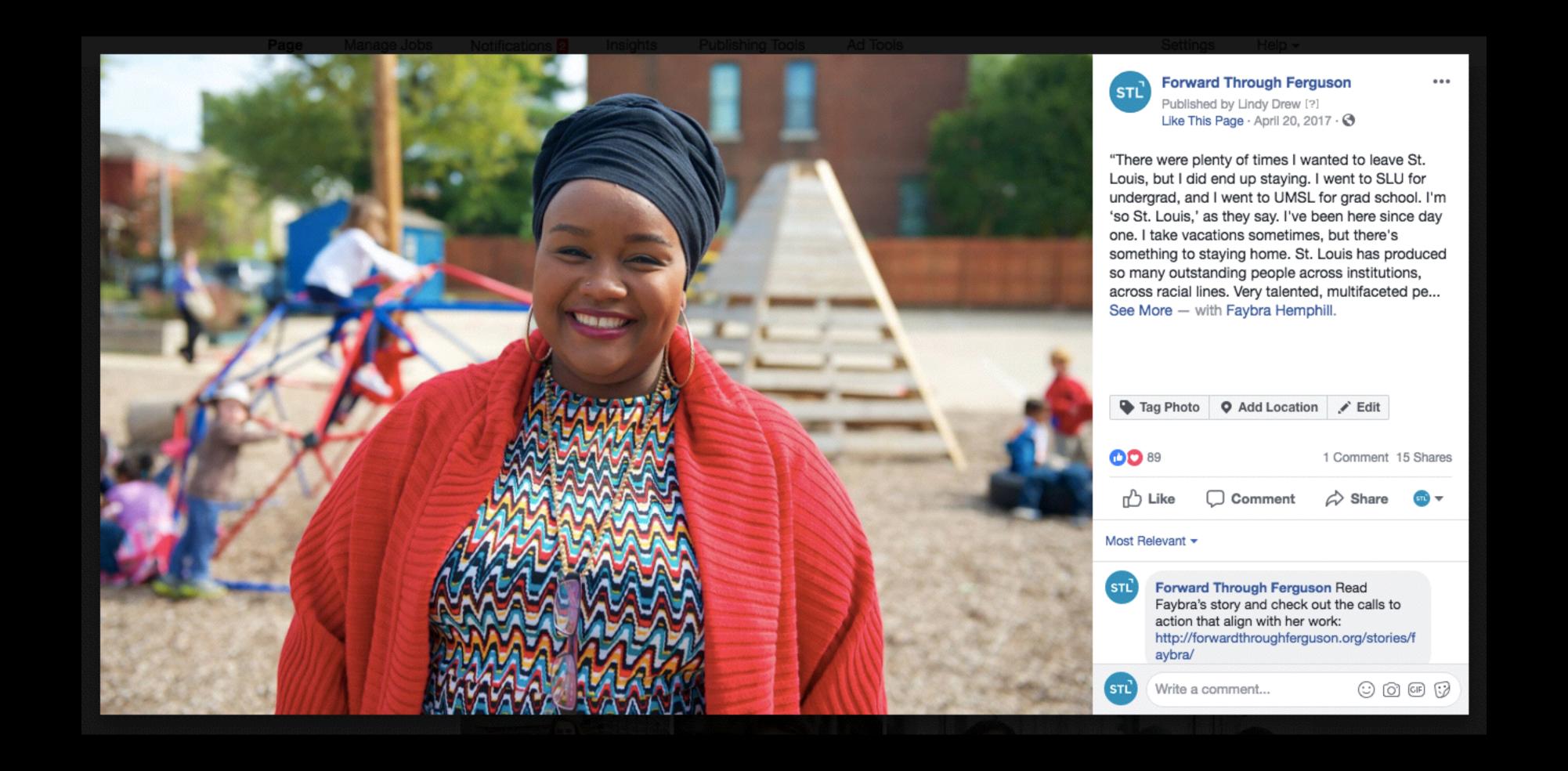
There is no storytelling silver bullet You can tell the stories of others Others can tell your stories Think like a journalist with a beat



Identify Potential Sources

Donors — New and long-time Volunteers — New and long-time Staff — New and long-time Quiet people Beneficiaries

Create a story library, for yourself and the organization Establish a process to draw out stories Establish a process to capture and share stories



Develop

For every story you gather:

Clarify your audience
Clarify your purpose
Clarify the change

Story Structure

Beginning > Middle > End

Before > Transformation > Now

Problem > Transformation > Resolution

Tell

Website

Text

Video

Photo

Direct mail

Email

Social media

Grant applications

Face to face

Narrative establishment
Narrative awareness
Narrative alignment

Stories ...

Remind you of your purpose
Reinforce the culture of the organization
Reiterate your value to your audiences

You already are a part of a storytelling organization.

Is your organization telling stories by design, or by default?

Thank you!

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