SHARING YOUR STORY
For Familiarization, Advocacy, and Social Change

Before you begin, ask yourself:
- **Why** are you sharing your story?
- **What** do you want from your audience?
- **What values** inspire you and might inspire others?

### Possible Calls to Action
- Finding New Allies
- Voting
- Speaking Out

### Possible Shared Values
- Love of Family
- Faith
- Equality
- Freedom
- Privacy/Safety
- Hard Work
- The American Dream
- Personal Responsibility

Building Your Story
- **Introduce yourself** and explain your connection to LGBTQ rights.

- **Tell a story** from your life about why this issue is important.

- **Highlight the impact of discrimination** (possibly linking to shared values).

- Link everything back to your **What** and **Why**.

### Important Parts of a Story
Be sure your story includes a beginning, middle, and an end.
Describe a **challenge**, offer the listener a **choice**, and express the **outcome** you would like.
Continuing the Conversation
Tips and Tricks for Presenting Your Story to Others

Tips for Public Speaking
- Take a deep breath and speak slowly.
- Make eye contact.
- Smile.
- Name and normalize confusion.
- Avoid insider jargon and acronyms.
- You are allowed to say 'no'

Are you Ready?
Have you *rehearsed*? Practicing in front of a mirror or trusted friends can help you get more comfortable?
Do you have a *support network*? Have you reviewed your social media *privacy settings*?
Self-care and safety are both important!

Handling Difficult or Off-Topic Questions

Uncomfortable Personal Question

- Full Response
- Partial Response
- Deflect

*Pivot Language:*
- “The real issue is...”
- “That's one way to look at it, but here's how I see it...”
- “Allow me to answer that by saying...”
- “Isn't the best thing to do...”
- “The key point here is...”

*Things to Avoid*
Avoid over-the-top language or name-calling.
Avoid big, sweeping statements...

"*Religious people just don't like LGBTQ people and want to discriminate.*"
"*All transgender people have experienced hate speech directed at them.*"
Avoid language that minimizes or dismisses anxieties or concerns...

"*Bathroom safety isn't a big deal.*"
Be careful when making 'movement comparisons'.