

Objective

Like all activities in the Find the Story module, this activity encourages students to discover stories from the people and places around them; to use as the raw material for their Story Valley projects.

This activity specifically encourages students to find **their own personal stories and those of their peers.**

Activity summary

Number of sessions: 1

This activity can be used to prepare students to share something personal about themselves. This activity is fitting when students don't know each other very well. This activity requires students to have their smartphone with pictures. Students choose a picture and share memories, forming a deeper connection with the other students and learning the power of those memories in their individual context.

Pre-activity preparation

Resources

- The students own smartphone with pictures

Deliverer preparation

- Pick out three images on your own device in preparation.

Student preparation

- Students need to bring their own smartphone
- If a student does not have a smartphone, ask them to bring a picture from home or share any of their possessions which might express something personal about themselves.

Running the activity

Step 1 – photo finding

Depending on the number of students: 5 to 10 minutes

Place students in a circle – so that everyone feels part of the group.

Ask students to take out their smartphones and go through the pictures on their phone. Ask them to pick an image that is really meaningful to them. This can be a picture of an event, a party, a person, an animal and so on.

Step 2 - discussion

Depending on the number of students: 10 – 60 minutes

After the students have picked out an image they want to share with the group, the teacher starts by sharing a story about one of his/her own pictures.

After that, the teacher picks students to tell what is in the picture, why they picked that picture and to share the memory that is connected to that picture. Ask the group not to comment or interrupt and to listen carefully.

Support

- Encourage students to share a memory
- Ask questions to help students tell more about the image they picked out.

Step 3 - plenary

10 – 15 minutes

After the activity thank everyone for being open and sincere. Ask the group if there is anything they want to highlight or discuss and inform what this exercise meant individually and in terms of group dynamics.

Success criteria

Things to look for to ensure this activity has been run successfully include:

- Students feel safe enough to share some information about their photos.
- Students listen to each other respectfully throughout the activity.
- Students reflect on some of the contributions made by their peers – and the stories they have found through this process.