

HOMESPUN TIP SHEET

No notes on stage

Your story needs to be told and not read from a script, so no pieces of paper or autocue! You will need to feel comfortable on stage telling your story in front of an audience. We do not want you to memorise your story word by word, rather know the shape that the story will take and how you want it to end. The best way to approach storytelling, is to imagine telling it to a group of friends. You want to be able to play with the detail when you get on stage, so that you can enjoy yourself and not panic about memorised lines.

This is your story

This is your true story and not someone else's experience or a made-up tale.

It's a story, not a speech or essay

This is not an opportunity for you to rant about an issue – that's why we have talkback radio! It is also not an essay which you are reading to an audience. This is an opportunity for you to tell an audience about your lived experience. When thinking about the story, ask yourself why is it important to you? What is your involvement in the story? What is gained or lost in the story?

Grab the audience's attention

How are you going to hook the audience in at the beginning of your story? Is there a great line that immediately takes them to a place or a moment? You want to grab the attention of your audience and have them invested in your story.

Know the destination of your story

Whilst you can play with the detail in the middle, know how you are going to end the story. Is there a line that you want to say at the end? You don't want to have meandering ending. Have a clear path that leads to a clear destination.

How do I know my story runs for five minutes?

Practice, practice and time yourself. If you are writing your story on paper, it would be approx. 700 words.

Our stage is inclusive and respectful

There is no room for any racism, homophobia, misogyny, or any form of hate speech in your story.