***“Never underestimate the power of your story. A well-told story has the potential to touch hearts and change minds. While impersonally delivered facts can easily be forgotten or dismissed, a story lingers and mingles with the other stories that shape our shared human experience.”***

This template will help you record and organize important points about your own family story. Start by jotting down experiences you have had. Put them in order and write a brief story. You may wish to use this template below to help organize your thoughts. Putting your thoughts down on paper now will help you prepare for opportunities to share your story in the future.

The whole story…

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(You may wish to continue on additional sheets of paper.)

Consider your audience

Now connect your experience to an issue…These points should consider the listener’s common experiences, concerns, goals, and position on an issue.

Point 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Point 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Point 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Excerpt from: ‘From Experience to Influence: The Power of a Parent’s Story’, ACTion Sheet: PHP-c121, PACER Center, 2006.* [*http://www.pacer.org/parent/php/php-c121.pdf*](http://www.pacer.org/parent/php/php-c121.pdf)

The Role of Families on Groups

**Sharing Your Family Story**