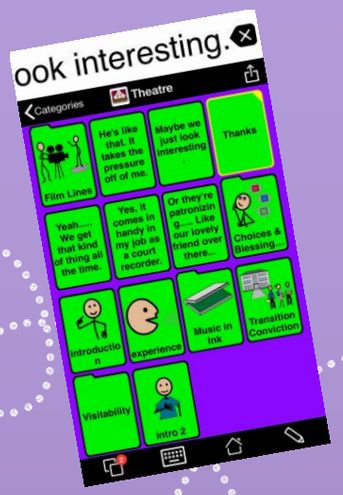
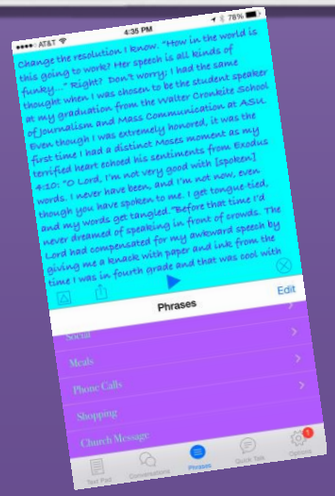


When AT and Creative Media Collide, Captivating Voices will be Heard

Presented by:

Brooke Brown
Founder and Story Editor

Brooke's Butterfly Touch:
Creative Storytelling Services



Financial/non-financial Relationships Disclosure

I am the author of The Little Butterfly Girl and while I do benefit financially from the sale of my book, it is a work of fiction and does not pertain to this presentation. I am also an unpaid volunteer for Arizona Bridge to Independent Living as a member of the Improbable Theatre Company. I have no other financial or non-financial relationships to disclose.

How Do I Know so Much About AT and Storytelling?

- I have used multiple types of AAC devices since elementary school.
- I earned my BA in Journalism and Mass Communication from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at ASU and received the Walter Cronkite Outstanding Undergraduate Award. I also gave the student address at graduation on my DynaWrite AAC device.
- After graduating, I continued speech therapy in the on-campus speech and hearing clinic for three years, allowing me to become very active in the AAC/AT community. My connections at the clinic generated my first public speaking opportunities where I shared some of my life experiences.
- I took a Digital Storytelling course at SCC, in which I discovered how to use the AAC app on my iPhone with iMovie and Keynote or PowerPoint to visually share my personal stories.

Why is it Important to Find Creative Ways to Share Your Stories?

- People always respond to powerful stories. They help break the ice among strangers, open communication and aid in finding common ground.
- It will encourage others to recognize the PERSON you are beyond your disability.
- When you have speech/communication or physical disabilities that can be exasperated in nervous situations, prepared personal stories can help demonstrate your true personality and abilities.
- Sharing your personal experiences can assist in making positive changes in your community.

Please note: In this case, a “story” is anything you’d like others to know or understand about *YOU*.

What Types of Creative Media Work Best with AAC Devices?

- I've found both iMovie and PowerPoint/Keynote to be suitably AAC user friendly, as long as the internal mic on the computer or mobile device you are recording into picks up the AAC voice clearly (see Tips and Tricks handout).
  - *Hint:* It's typically easier to time your pictures, slide transitions or video clips to the most intelligible speech rate on your AAC device than vice versa.
- The program you choose to use will largely depend on the target audience and setting in which you plan to share your story (slides are better for interactive presentations).
  - The easiest way to share videos online is to upload them onto YouTube, Vimeo or a similar site and post the links.

Personal Examples of Digital/Video Stories

- Link to "The Bricks I Carry" video: http://youtu.be/i9lmN_fShfQ. This video describes a few objects that represent important events in my life.
- Link to "Mind Your Tongue" video: https://youtu.be/2GOEEd_rmlg. This One Shot movie illustrates what goes through my head when people make assumptions about my intelligence just from hearing my speech impairment.
- Link to "Example Interview Introduction" video: https://youtu.be/mCN46gEDWqY. This is a quick example of a video that an AAC user could create for a job interview or client/business meeting.

Discussion Question

Can you think of a situation in your own life where those types of videos might be useful?

What's Your Story?
(First Questions to Think About)

- Who is your audience? (advocacy/support group, classmates, potential employers, colleagues, general public, etcetera)
- What message(s) are you trying to communicate? This includes things such as: lessons learned from past experiences, your skills and talents, work experience, your interests, etcetera.
- Which story format would best suit the situation in which you are sharing your story? (presentation slideshow or digital story/video)

Discussion Question

After seeing the examples, how would you introduce or describe yourself in your story?

Just Two More Discussion Questions

- What will your first story be and who will you share it with?
- Which story format (slides or video) do you think you will use most?

To Contact Brooke…

E-mail: TheButterflyTouch@gmail.com

Or visit one of these sites:

brookesbutterflytouch.wordpress.com

www.wheels2wings.com

Any questions?