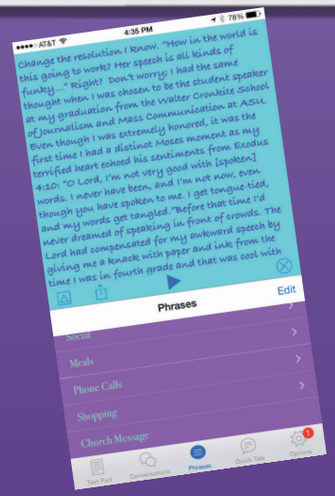
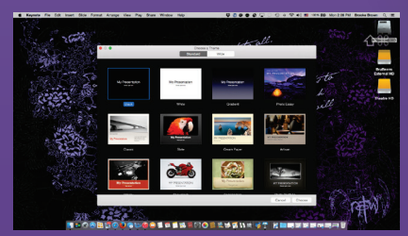
Discover the Power in YOUR story with AT and Creative Media

Presented by:

Brooke Brown
Founder and Story Editor

Brooke's Butterfly Touch:
Creative Storytelling Services





Brooke's Credentials

I am the author of *The Little Butterfly Girl*, *ADAPT*, and the *Transforming the Heart of YOUR Story* workbook. the storytelling concepts discussed today can be found in the workbook. In 2014, I started a ministry called, Brooke's Butterfly Touch: Creative Storytelling Services. I also serve as the Communication Specialist for Dr. John Trent's Strong Families ministry. Additionally, I am a volunteer at Ability360 as a member of the Theatre360 acting troupe.

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.
- I now use these same tools to facilitate storytelling workshops for churches, advocacy, and recovery groups throughout the country.

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 with combatting stigma 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 (or a client's life) where those types of videos might be useful?

More examples are on my YouTube Channel, link to:

http://www.youtube.com/c/BrookeBrownRollinginGrace

Video Editing Tips

If you don't have a video camera, there are several ways you can record video:

- **on your smartphone or tablet**
- **With a webcam on your computer using Quicktime or Photo Booth (Mac) or the "camera" app on Windows.**

Editing and Sharing:

- **Mac -Import recorded video into iMovie to edit and add titles and effects.**
- **Windows - Edit with Movie Maker**
- **If you upload your video to YouTube, you can also edit directly on the site.**

Narrated Slides

- **If you are sharing your slideshow with a group, always preprogram your speech into your AAC device and/or record your narration in the slides themselves.**
- **This will help your story move at a steady pace and keep your audience's attention from wandering while you type. You can also record your timings for slide changes if you have trouble switching them yourself.**
- **Play around with the voice, pronunciation and speech rate as necessary on your AAC device to ensure your narration is as easily understandable as possible.**

Link to video of example slides with recorded narration:
https://youtu.be/yTOSliiN3WE

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

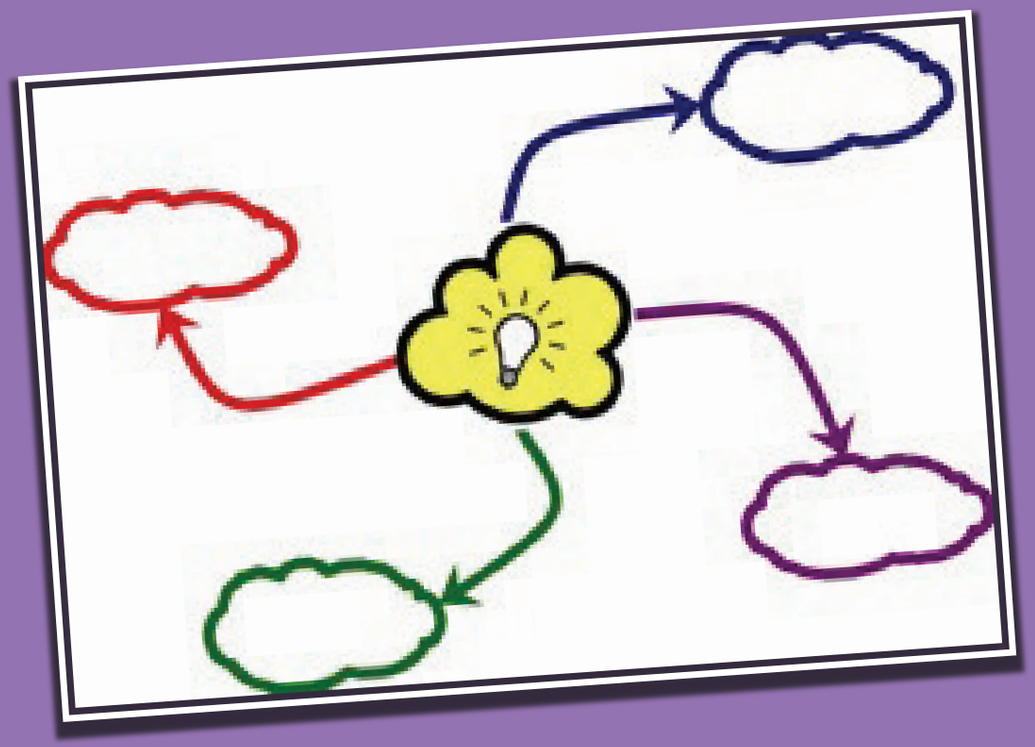
- **Who is your audience? (advocacy/support group, classmates, potential employers, colleagues, general public, etcetera)**
- **What message(s) are you trying to communicate? This includes things such as: lessons learned from past experiences, your skills and talents, work experience, your interests,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

Brainstorming Tools: Mind Maps

- The only set rule for mind maps is that all the "branches" must grow out of a central idea. They can be any shape and as elaborate as you wish.

- See Mind Map and Journey Map handouts

- **Think about your story questions!**



Discussion Question

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

Popular Blogs: Other Places to Share

- **Link to https://aaclanguagelab.com. A free resource for the AAC community. The "communicators in Action" section of the blog accepts personal posts.**
- **News and opinion - Link to https://huffingtonpost.com. Look for the blog pitch link on the Contact Us page (bottom of the homepage).**
- **The Mighty: News and stories about disease, disability and mental illness. Link to https://themighty.com. The Submit Button is on the top left.**

Just Two More Discussion Questions

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

Speaker's Note

You can share your story with anyone you meet, wherever you are, if the moment is right. But, if you want to become a speaker in schools, churches or at events, there are two things you need to do:

- **Know, practice and refine your story. Be concise and purposeful with your words.**
- **KEEP ASKING! Look for events and groups you think would benefit from hearing your story and contact them via phone or e-mail and offer your services.**

DON'T GIVE UP! BE PERSISTENT!

To Contact Brooke…

Link to e-mail: TheButterflyTouch@gmail.com

Or visit one of these sites:

Link to: brookesbutterflytouch.com

Link to: www.wheels2wings.com

Link to: StrongFamilies.com

Any questions?