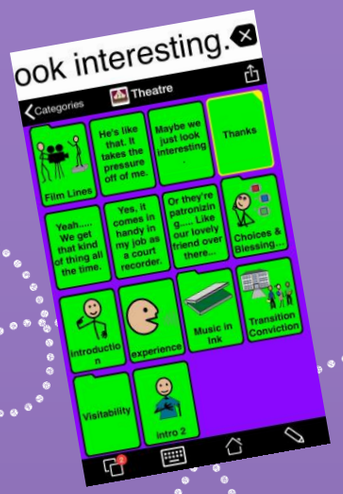
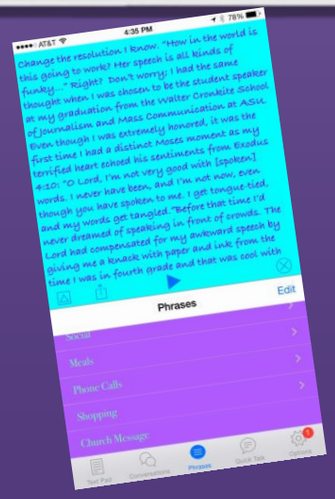


Always Assume Competence:
Eliminating Stigma and Cultivating opportunities Through Personal Storytelling

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 Ms. Wheelchair Arizona 2022. Additionally, I am a ministry partner with Joni and Friends Arizona, and an ambassador for UCP of Central Arizona.

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.

In my opinion, culture has conditioned people to incorrectly assume there is an automatic correlation between one's physical limitations and mental competency. This needs to change.

Link to CP Awareness Month video: https://youtu.be/jZ194N9JDTk

Link to Always Assume Competence interview clips: https://youtu.be/7u4CBykKWeM

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/yTOSIiiN3WE

What's Your Story?
(Where to Start)

- **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.**
- **Know the highlights of your story. Practice by making notecards (if needed) or preprogram key phrases in your AAC devices.**
- **Keep your story focused on the points of interest of your audience.**
- **"Don't get stuck" on your trauma and hardships.**

Social Media tips

- **Reintroduce yourself and your story on a regular basis**
- **what you first create gives you freedom to *REPURPOSE* and *REPOST!***
- **Remember in whatever you create, it's not perfection that will make an impact, it's the reality of your circumstances and truth of your story. Don't worry about who people think you are. Show them who God created you to be.**

Link to Youtube intro video: https://youtu.be/6CKDYzIpDVo

Link to From Cousin to Caregiver video: https://youtu.be/SlKvA6bzDhU

The One Assumption You can Make

There is only one assumption that you should ever make about your clients and that is “always assume competence.” If they do have some type of cognitive disability, you can figure out how to accommodate for it as you get to know them. If you have a client with a disability who is living in their own private homes like I am, make an effort to give them opportunities to demonstrate that in many ways, they are just like their typically-abled peers and neighbors.

Link to Mind Your Tongue video:
https://youtu.be/2GOEEd_rmlg

To Contact Brooke…

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Or visit one of these sites:

Link to: brookesbutterflytouch.com

Link to: www.wheels2wings.com

Link to: StrongFamilies.com

Any questions?