



ONE-MINUTE STORIES

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We often use One-Minute Stories as the first activity for people about to engage in collaborative work. The process is both efficient and effective. Individuals in groups of 4-8 take turns telling brief stories that communicate practical applications of important values. The instructions are simple: "Tell a story in one-minute or less that occurs to you as an example of a value that is important to you and this organization (or partnership, collaboration, etc.). Hold comments and questions until after every person has told a story." The activity takes only 5-10 minutes and it reliably begins the meeting in a positive direction.

We can pose all sorts of theories about why the One-minute Stories work so well, but, for most of our clients, knowing why this activity works is not the point. What matters is the output of the meeting. We use One-minute Stories because the activity works.

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