

Narrative Methods Workshop: *One Encounter, Multiple Stories*
Worksheet

Learning Objectives

1. Identify how incomplete information shapes the stories we construct about others.
2. Generate multiple plausible interpretations of a clinical scenario using narrative imagination.
3. Write a short narrative from a specific stakeholder’s perspective (patient, family member, or clinician).
4. Analyze how power, assumptions, and positionality influence the stories told about patients.
5. Reflect on how hearing others’ narratives can change one’s understanding of a clinical encounter.

Case Scenario

On morning rounds, the teaching team, along with the patient’s nurse, go together to see a patient who was admitted overnight. The patient’s family member remains present at the bedside, at the patient’s request. The medical team elicits further information about the patient’s past medical history, current symptoms, and what brought the patient to the hospital. During this conversation, the patient shares some recent encounters with healthcare professionals while seeking care for similar problems, and the patient’s family member corroborates the patient’s accounts of these experiences.

Once the team steps outside the patient’s room, some members of the team express skepticism about what the patient reported, and someone makes a comment about how best to “handle challenging patients.” Unbeknownst to the team, the patient’s family member had come out into the hall to get a cup of ice, and, as this family member is returning to the room, they overhear portions of the team’s conversation – enough to assume the team is speaking negatively about the patient, although they don’t hear any details of why the team has made this assessment. The family member returns to the patient’s side, anxious and alarmed, and whispers, “I don’t think those doctors believe us!”

Backstory

The backstory my group decided on is:

The family member’s relationship to the patient is: _____

Perspective-Taking

I choose to write from the perspective of the:

- Patient
- Family member
- Care team member (specify: _____)

Questions to Think About

- What is this person feeling, thinking, or remembering from experiences in their past?
- What does this person believe is happening or presuppose about others? Could they be wrong?
- Think about how you would tell the beginning of the story, the middle, and the end of the story from this person's perspective.
- What does this person want other people to understand?

Storytelling

Use this space to write the narrative. Alternatively, you are welcome to type on a laptop or other device.



Storytelling (Continued)

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for the user to write their story.