

Inclusivus Guide to Uniting, Engaging, and Creating Action in Your Community and Life

Power – in the form of knowledge, experience, voice – sits within communities and the individuals that inhabit them. We nurture this power within marginalized people and communities by helping them find their voices – which we’ve termed: InPowerment. We work hand in hand with these self-elected women and men in leveraging their stories and experiences to drive community change and progress.

We differ from other organizations because we recognize the power within these communities and simply act as a catalyst for impact.

And, your story is the spark of this impact. **We hope this guide will not only lead you to a better narrative but also act as a tool for you to unite, engage and create action in your community and life.**

CRAFTING YOUR INPOWERED NARRATIVE

While crafting your InPowered narrative, remember your voice matters and you are your own best advocate. Shape your narrative knowing that it can offer alternative solutions to policy makers and decision makers. As you amplify your voice for change don’t get too caught in the details but instead focus on the motivation (why certain changes and decisions are inevitable) and the strategy (what steps they can take to achieve the desired result). By alternating between information and emotion you can mobilize others to act out of necessity and conviction. Instead of having others speak on your behalf, you are taking a stand to speak for yourself, to stand in your power.

RE-WRITING YOUR NARRATIVE IN THREE STEPS: CHALLENGE, CHOICE, OUTCOME

Start by focusing on one key story — one event, or place or issue you wish to create change around. Take a moment to reflect on your story in the context of challenge, choice and outcome to deliver a powerful narrative and the this could spark a movement to poverty or social inequality.

“Action is inhibited by inertia, fear, self-doubt, isolation, and apathy. Action is facilitated by urgency, hope, knowing you can make a difference, solidarity, and anger. Stories mobilize emotions that urge us to take action and help us overcome emotions that inhibit us from action.”

~Anonymous

Share your story with us for the opportunity to be a featured guest on our Podcast! To submit your story simply fill out the form on the next page and email us at stories@inclusivus.org or print and mail the form to our office: Inclusivus 2030 Q Street NW Washington DC 2009

We can't wait for the world to hear your story! The space is there for you to be heard.

CHALLENGE: All great stories start with a challenge, goal or issue that confronts the main character and possibly conflicts with past beliefs, culture or upbringing. This challenge forces the main character to look at life through a new perspective and consider solutions otherwise discarded. Think about some of the questions below to articulate the narrative change subject are working through.

Step 1. What is your challenge? What issues pertaining to inequality and exclusion are you currently faced with that you want to change? What is it that you refuse to accept about your current situation? Why do you feel this challenge deserves attention? Who does this challenge impact directly?

CHOICE: While crafting your new narrative be sure to consider the full weight and spectrum of your choices. Choices are simply ideas that are yet to be set in motion. To create impact in your community and life it's imperative to accept change as part of the process and take the necessary action steps.

Step 2: What specific choices are available to you in identifying solutions? What action steps must you take to make sure your choice turns into a reality? Who else must take these steps with you? Where did you get the InPowerment to make this choice? What impact will these choices have on your community and society at large in creating greater inclusion?

OUTCOME: Outcomes are the results of action steps taken toward a goal and/or challenge. How you (and your community) reactions are often a result of social policies, culture, life experiences. Since it is hard to predict an outcome try to focus on the biggest factors that would change and how this would impact you, your life and your community.

Step 3: What happened as a result of your action steps after making a choice? What hope can it give you or your community? What examples does it serve? How does the outcome feel? Why does it feel like this? What did you learn from this experience in standing in your power and use your voice? What lessons should policy/decision makers and the general public walk away with in understanding your story of change? How do you want those that would have otherwise not hear your story to feel?
