



## **Telling Your Personal Story**

### **Sharing your call to Leadership**

#### **Background**

As a Nashville Rise Parent leader you will be building relationships with other parents around shared interests, values, and issues that parents collectively decide to pursue together. Once these issues are decided you will be asking other parents, community members, and others to step forward to take action to ensure that every child in Davidson County receives a quality education regardless of zip code.

As parent leaders, we need to build trust, inspire hope, and move people to action. Personal stories are one of the most powerful ways to do this: they are how we communicate our shared values and build trust; what is at stake; and why there is such an urgency to act today.

The “story of self” is dedicated to providing tools on how to share your stories with other parents, community leaders, and elected officials to powerfully impact the public education policy. Each story is that powerful.

## Story of Self

The “story of self” expresses the values or experiences that call each one of us to work in education reform. The key elements of an effective story are:

1. **Formative Experiences** – A brief overview of who you are, where you come from & a key moment in your personal or educational experience or leadership journey. Don’t forget to always start with your name.
2. **Challenge** – The challenge you are seeking to address through your work. Should be a challenge you see as central to resolving in order to achieve your “One Day” vision.
3. **Choice** – The choice you made to take on the fight of education reform & equity and why you are here today.
4. **Outcome** – What steps you’ve made towards achieving your vision & what work remains to be done. Be as specific as possible.

Keep in mind that the story of self is to find the common ground between you and the person you are building the relationship with – another parent, a fellow parishioner, a community leader, an elected official. This common ground will help build the relationship and help to build on the story of self with others.

Step 1: *Reflection* - Use this Space to Brainstorm key elements of your “Story of Self”

<b>Formative Experience</b>	
<b>Challenge</b>	
<b>Choice</b>	
<b>Outcome</b>	



*Step 2: Draft your “Story of Self”*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Step 3: Share your story with your small group and talk through these discussion points*

What themes or values did you all have in common?

What is your collective story of quality education that connect you together?

*Step 4: Share with the whole group*