



THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

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OAK HILL HIGH SCHOOL
Home of the Raiders











INTRODUCTIONS

- Name
- Pronouns
- Where you work
- Who you serve
- Something you are an expert in





WHO WE ARE

At The Telling Room, we empower youth through writing and share their voices with the world.

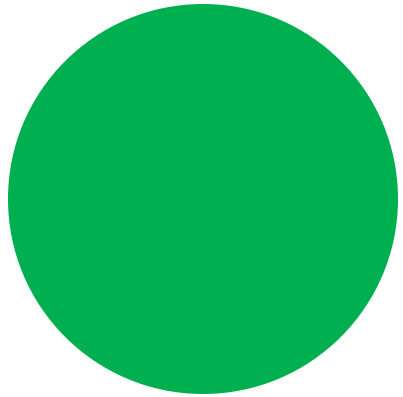
As a literary arts education organization focused on young writers ages 6 to 18, we seek to build confidence, strengthen literacy skills, and provide real audiences for our students.

We believe that the power of creative expression can change our communities and prepare our youth for success both now and in the future.

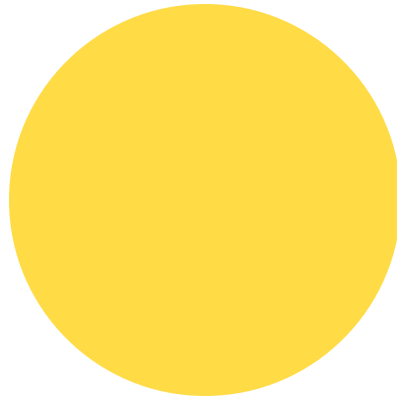


Stoplight Activity

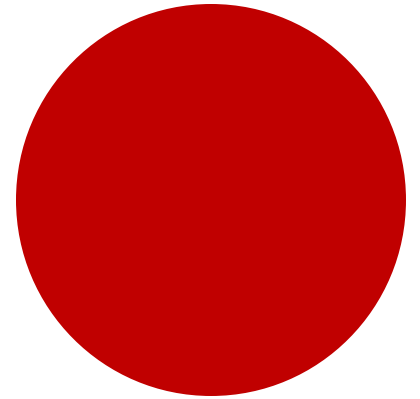
How would you feel sharing about...



**“Yes, I can
absolutely talk
about that.”**



**“Let’s slow down, I
have to think about
that first.”**



**“Hard pass. That’s
off limits.”**



HOW TO GET TO THE GREEN

- Play
- Practice
- Choice
- The right not to be perfect (Raggedy is welcome!)



ASSUMPTIONS

Youth empowerment occurs when youth and their communities understand:

- All youth are in and of themselves enough
- Everyone comes with inherent worth, skills, and talent
- Everyone's unique perspective and experience is important and of value to the community

PRECONDITIONS

To nurture youth empowerment, we're committed to fostering:

- ✓ A sense of safety and space for vulnerability where students can explore who they are
- ✓ An environment that values self-expression
- ✓ A culture that cultivates respect and kindness
- ✓ Collaborative learning without the ranking of perceived skills
- ✓ An active sense of belonging



TELLING ROOM

THEORY OF CHANGE



Our Vision: A future where youth make themselves heard and their communities value their voices.
Our community listens to young people and values their contributions

Youth participants have opportunities through which they can gain self-confidence through community-building

Youth participants have opportunities through which they can discover and validate their creative voices

OUTPUTS

We provide literary arts education where students live and learn through:

Afterschool Programs
School-Based Programs
Community Programs



OUR IMPACT

Youth are more empowered and equipped to realize their individual potential and position themselves and their communities for success



LONG TERM OUTCOMES



IMPACT CATEGORIES

We work to align our values with action towards impact



We increase and sustain youth engagement
We invest in and cultivate community partnerships
We nurture access to opportunities
Students strengthen skills and expand knowledge
Students' sense of self shifts, expanding confidence and agency
Students grow their networks



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“All of us want to be seen, heard, and valued by others. It’s important that young people feel they matter to their communities. Matterering goes beyond just thinking that people care – it’s the belief that you can meaningfully contribute, and that others depend on you and are invested in your success.”

— Maine Youth Thriving Guide



STORY SHARE

With a partner, share the story behind something you are wearing.





BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY



“The greatest compliment I could get is someone using one of my works to kind of find a safe little space. And if I've done that, then I've done one thing right.”

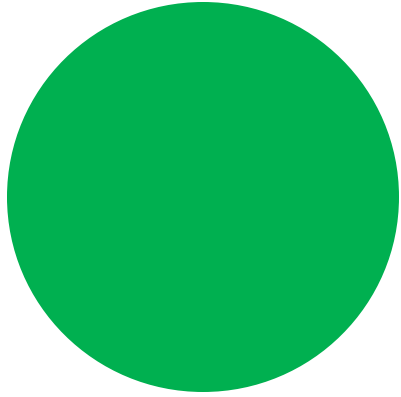
— Noor Sager

WHAT STORIES ARE WE SHARING?



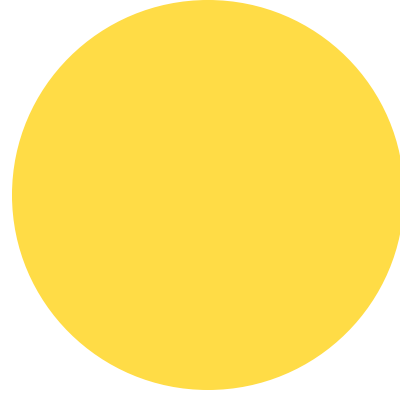
GOAL SETTING FOR THE DAY

Respond to one of the following prompts:



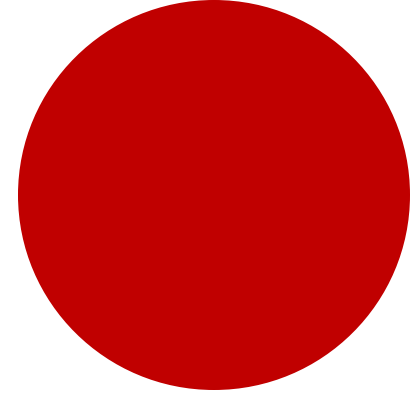
GREEN:

**What's one way that
storytelling fits into
your work/job
description?**



YELLOW:

**What question is guiding
you through your day—
what do you hope to learn?
Who do you want to talk
to?**



RED:

**Where do you feel “charged”
when it comes to
storytelling? What parts of the
storytelling hold heat for you?**



FINAL THOUGHTS

- **What powerful messages is your own body sending you about your relationship to speaking your truth?**
- **Where can you add scaffolded experiences, play, and choice in your interactions and teachings with youth to help them find their own voices?**
- **What types of stories would you like to share as examples of the very thing you are trying to teach?**

