

Creating a Mini-Story (Example)

Directions. Use the following worksheet to develop the elements of your mini-story. The column on the left defines each element and provides an example. Use the right-hand column to make notes about the elements of your own mini-story.

Determine where in your presentation you need a mini-story – to illustrate new material, for example, or support a strong assertion.

Mini-Story Element and Examples	Your Mini-Story Details
<p>1. Set the hook. A hook sets up a mini-story by means of an intriguing question or statement that makes your audience want to hear more.</p> <p><i>Example: "It's interesting how small things can bring home bigger truths we may not want to face."</i></p>	
<p>2. Outline the mini-story. Think of the mini-story as a snapshot or short series of events. Include the minimum detail necessary to understand the mini-story.</p> <p><i>Example: My father had recently retired. One day, I asked him if he was going to the post office.</i></p> <p><i>"I can't," he said. "It's Saturday."</i></p> <p><i>"Actually, dad," I said, "Today is Friday."</i></p> <p><i>He looked at me for a moment. "Wow!" he said. "I guess I really am retired!"</i></p>	
<p>3. Tie the mini-story to the point you want to make. This is a restatement of the mini-story's main point. For shorter mini-stories, it may not always be necessary.</p> <p><i>Example: So it's a good idea to keep yourself open to your experiences, even the little ones.</i></p>	