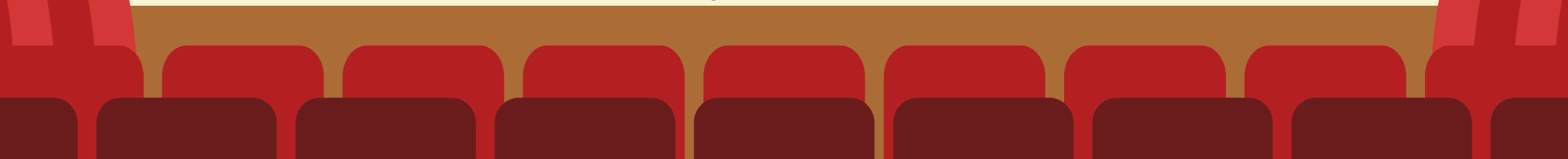


The background of the slide is a stylized illustration of a theater stage. It features heavy red curtains with a scalloped top edge. Two spotlights are positioned at the top, casting a warm brown light onto the center of the stage. The text is centered within this spotlight area.

Moth-Like Storytelling Group at the Aphasia Resource Center at Boston University

Aphasia Access Conference
April, 2025

The bottom of the slide shows the tops of several rows of red theater seats, suggesting an audience is present.

Meet Tim Sweeney!



What is our Storytelling Group about?

- The implementation of this group included initial exploration of professional Moth story examples, discussion and lessons on story structure and theming, and finally opportunities to practice and share personal stories with group feedback.
- Importantly, the Moth organization emphasizes that “Empathy starts with a story” (The Moth, 2024). Our group format exemplifies this as members take turns sharing stories, asking questions, and supporting each other with feedback. In this, the group helps develop functional storytelling skills while also providing psychosocial support for members to bond over the diverse and common lived experiences expressed through their stories.
- While individuals with aphasia experience a loss of language, their stories remain and the Moth inspired storytelling group provides a platform for members to voice those stories.

Storytelling First Steps:

create a first line that makes the listener:

have more questions

“see” the scene
(imagery)

“feel” something
(humor, shock, etc)

can have any or all of these components for your first line!

THEME

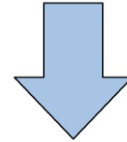
Universal message

MAIN IDEA

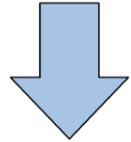
What the story is mostly about

Your main idea and theme can go hand in hand!

RAISING THE STAKES

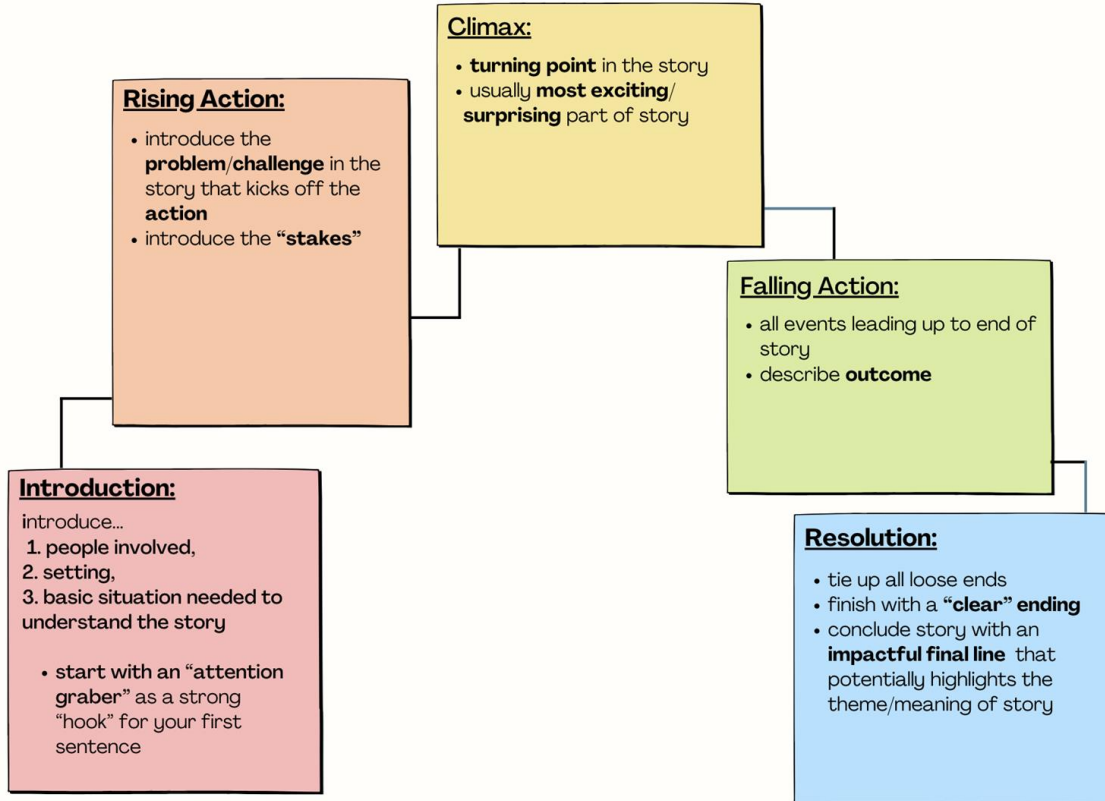


What do you stand to gain or lose?

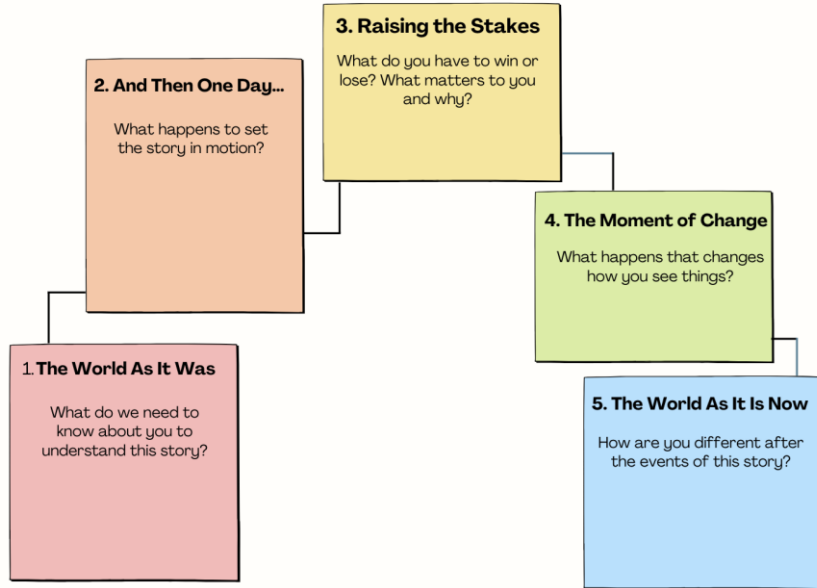


Why is what happens in the story important to you?

STORY PLOT BREAKDOWN



MOTH STORY MAP



Storytelling Structure

STORY PLOT MAP



Storytelling Outline