

Story Review Checklist

Is this Story Ready to Share?

Use this checklist after you have shaped a learner story and before it goes to the learner for their review. This is your quality and ethics check first.

Section A: Story Quality

Does this tell a story — or just report an experience?

The story is anchored in one specific moment or event — not a summary of the learner's full journey.

There is a clear before, a turning point, and a sense of what is different now.

The learner is positioned as an agent — they made choices and took action.

The story contains at least one detail that only this learner could have provided.

A viewer who has never heard of your organization would understand and feel the story.

Section B: Voice and Framing

Does this video let the learner speak for themselves — or does it speak for them?

The learner speaks on camera in their own words. Nothing they say has been coached, suggested, or scripted by the practitioner.

The way the learner speaks — their pace, phrasing, and voice — has been preserved in the edit. Their natural speech has not been tidied into something more polished.

There is no deficit framing visible or audible — the video does not open with or dwell on the learner's struggles, limitations, or what they lacked.

The learner is positioned throughout as someone who made choices and took action — not as a passive recipient of the program's help.

The edit does not take any spoken moment out of context or change its meaning from what the learner intended.

The video does not imply this learner's experience represents all learners in your program.



Story Review Checklist

Is this Story Ready to Share?

Section C: Ethics and Consent

<input type="checkbox"/>	Written consent covers this specific use — this format, this platform, this audience.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nothing in this story was mentioned in the pre-conversation or interview with a sense of being off the table.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The learner knows which parts of the interview I plan to use before I edit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would be comfortable showing this to the learner, their family, and your board today.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The learner will see this before it is published — not just before it is recorded.

Looking Ahead: Session 3

In Storytelling Part 3: Making the Video, you will learn how to set up your phone for a good recording, how to conduct an interview that feels like a conversation, and how to make simple edits to turn a longer interview into a short, shareable video. Bring your pre-conversation notes, your chosen framework, and a charged phone.