

Learner Story Informed Consent Checklist

Ethical Storytelling in Literacy Education

Part 1: Before You Ask – Organizational Readiness

These questions are for you (the educator or program leader) to consider before approaching a learner.

Does our organization have a written, plain-language consent form for story collection?

Does the consent form explain where the story may appear (social media, reports, website, presentations)?

Does our consent process explain that the learner can withdraw consent at any time without consequence?

Does our consent form include the learner's ability to review a final version of the story before being shared?

Do we have a clear process for storing, updating, and withdrawing consent records?

Part 2: The Consent Conversation – With the Learner

Work through these points directly with the learner – not in a rush, and not as a one-time signature event.

I explained clearly why we want to share their story (what it helps us do).

I explained exactly where the story will appear and who will see it.

I showed them a real example of how their story might be used (e.g., a past report or post).

I confirmed the learner can share as much or as little as they choose.

I confirmed there is no pressure, reward, or consequence tied to their participation.

I offered to share the final version with them before it is published.



Learner Story Consent Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	I recorded their consent in writing and gave them a copy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I confirmed they know how to contact us if they change their mind.

Part 3: Reviewing the Story — Before Publishing

<input type="checkbox"/>	The story focuses on what the learner accomplished, not on their past struggles or deficits.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The language centres the learner as an agent — they are doing, achieving, deciding.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No sensitive personal details are included unless the learner explicitly requested them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If the learner is named or photographed, they have reviewed and approved the final version.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would be comfortable showing this story to the learner and their family.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The story is accurate — it has not been dramatized or exaggerated for impact.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The story does not imply this learner represents all learners or all program experiences.

Reflection Prompt

If you answered No or Unsure to any item in Section 2 or 3, pause before publishing. Return to the learner or to your organization's process. Consent cannot be assumed — it must be confirmed.

