



CLIMATE STORIES PROJECT

An Educational and Artistic Forum for Sharing Personal Stories about Climate Change

Crafting, Recording, and Sharing your Climate Story

There is no “correct” way to tell your climate story. However, your story should focus on your personal and community responses to the changing climate. Speaking about climate change politics or science in an abstract way is less important than sharing your personal observations of, responses to, and emotions about climate change in your home region. You may wish to listen to recorded stories on the CSP website before you craft your story.

An effective climate story uses “I” statements, such as “I feel,” “I’m observing,” or “I care about.” Another important aspect of climate storytelling is to use specific anecdotes and sensory descriptions: What is one observation or experience which made climate change “real” for you? How does climate change look, sound, feel, or smell?

Crafting your Climate Story

A good way to craft your climate story is to use paper and writing utensils to brainstorm elements of your story. Some people find it helpful to draw in addition to writing as creativity is a key element of responding proactively to the climate crisis. People have found the following prompts are useful while brainstorming (a version of these writing prompts is also found at <https://www.climatestoriesproject.org/tell-your-story.html>):

- Introduce yourself: What is your name and where are you from?
- How are you connected to a meaningful feature of your home place – an “object of care” such as your family and friends, a favorite natural area, clean water, or an element of your local community?
- What are your observations of the changing climate around you and how do these changes threaten your object of care? For example, how does climate change impact your love of skiing, or a the health of a local water source?
- What are your emotional responses to climate change? These might include fear, grief, anger, or hope about transforming destructive relationships between ourselves and our environment.
- Why are you motivated to confront the climate crisis? What is your vision you have for yourself, your community, and society moving forward?

After brainstorming, you may wish to write out a word-for-word script of your story or keep your brainstorming in a less-structured format. Consider that your spoken climate story should be 2-3 minutes long. If recording a video story, it is a good idea to practice speaking your climate story without reading your written story or notes.

Recording your Climate Story

To record your climate story, isn't necessary to purchase expensive recording gear – you may use a smartphone or computer to record. Here are some audio and video recording tips:

- Find a quiet location free from distractions to record your story.
- For the best sound quality, try to be as close to the recording device as possible. However, if you are too close to the microphone, the sound may distort. If you are recording outside, it is a good idea to use a windscreen or lavalier microphone.
- For recording video, use a tripod to keep your phone or camera steady – or have another person hold your recording device.
- Use natural lighting – if indoors stand or sit near a window, but make sure the camera is not pointing into the sun.
- If using a smartphone, record the video in horizontal rather than vertical orientation.
- Do a short test of the sound and video quality and make setup adjustments as needed.
- Lead from your heart – if you are feeling emotions as you share, you can let these come out through your speaking voice.

Sharing your Climate Story

You can give permission to edit and share your story, and upload an audio MP3 file on the “Share your Climate Story” section of the CSP website at <https://www.climatestoriesproject.org/tell-your-story.html>. You can send a WAV file or other audio file to jason@climatestoriesproject.org. Please give written permission to edit and share your story and include a photo of yourself.

To send a video story, please send an email message to the above address to coordinate sharing.

Submitted stories may be edited for brevity or to improve sound quality as needed. You will be notified when your story is published.

Any questions should be sent to jason@climatestoriesproject.org. Many thanks for your participation!

Climate Stories Project (CSP) is an educational and artistic forum for sharing personal stories about climate change. CSP shares audio and video climate stories on www.climatestoriesproject.org, facilitates climate storytelling workshops for schools and organizations, and promotes the creation of artistic works which integrate recorded climate stories. The goal of CSP is to encourage people from around the world to engage deeply with climate change, giving rise to an effective and inclusive movement to confront the climate crisis.