

## HOMEWORK

### Refine Your Personal Story

To be an effective advocate for change you must move beyond your personal issues for your child and think about the bigger picture for all kids. You can use your personal story to create change.

#### TIPS

Be brief and clear  
Choose one thing to talk about  
Keep sentences short  
Use words, not acronyms

#### POINTS TO REMEMBER

Keep it short.  
Keep it organized.  
Be efficient and effective.  
Use your own personal experiences as examples to reinforce your point.  
Offer to work together to get create change.

### STORY OUTLINE

#### BEGINNING

Who are you?  
Who is your child? *Think beyond medical and education labels.*  
What is working?

#### MIDDLE

Problem  
    What isn't working?  
    Define the problem clearly. Give specific examples.  
Solution  
    What do you think will help?

#### END

Say thanks and ask:  
    Will they agree to try to solve the problem?  
    Do they need more information?  
    How can you help them?

Be an agent of change—locally, nationally, globally.

## **Practice writing your personal story**

### **BEGINNING**

*Who are you? Who is your child? What is working?*

### **MIDDLE**

*Statement of problem with examples*

*Offer a solution*

### **END**

*Say thanks and ask for their help. Offer your support.*

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