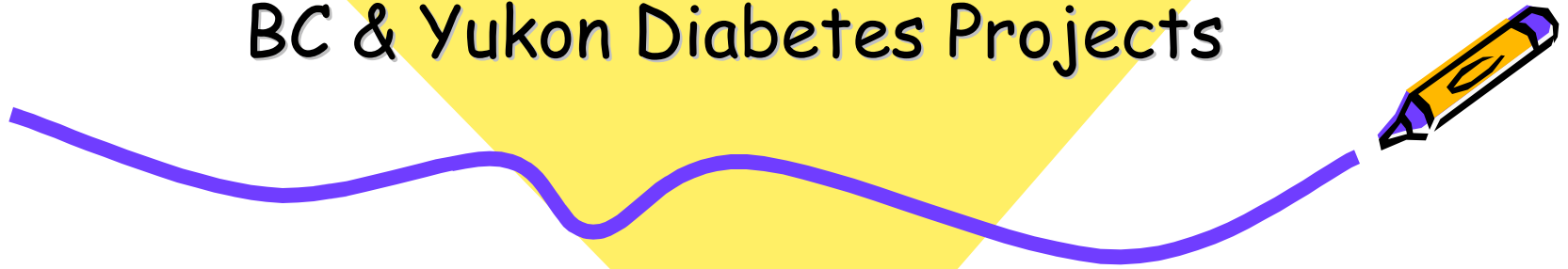




The Craft of Telling Our Own Stories

A Workshop for the
BC & Yukon Diabetes Projects





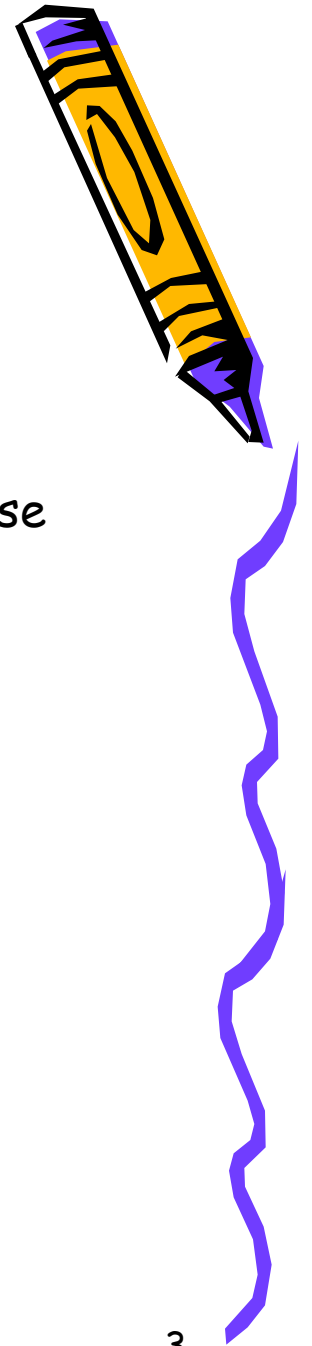
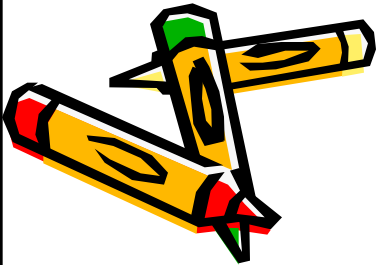
"A fact is like a sack – it won't stand up if it's empty. To make it stand up, first you have to put in it all the reasons and feelings that caused it in the first place."

-- *Luigi Pirandello, Italian playwright*



Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Overview: What we are doing
 - Purpose of reporting: link what we do to writing a report: Partnership, Sustainability, Making our case
- The power of stories
 - Gathering the stories
 - What did you bring
 - Sharing the successes and challenges
 - Shaping the Stories
 - What can we say
 - Finding meaning and telling the tale
- Next steps
 - Reviewers



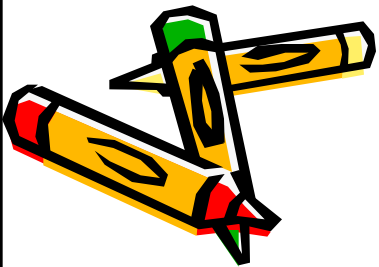
Transformation and Revolution

- Knowing our strengths: This is not about specialization it's about what we can do
- What we do is invaluable -therefore it is worth recording
- We know we do good work but that's not enough have to convince others in language they can understand (luckily, this is not hard)



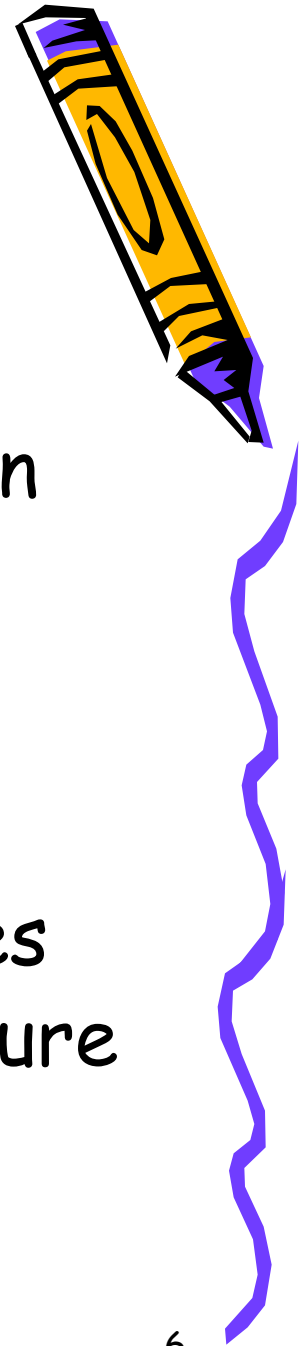
Making sense of our lives

- The role of stories for the human spirit
 - Clarify concepts, By pass resistance, Inspire action, Illustrate what's working, what's not, Share knowledge and build wisdom, Lead to change



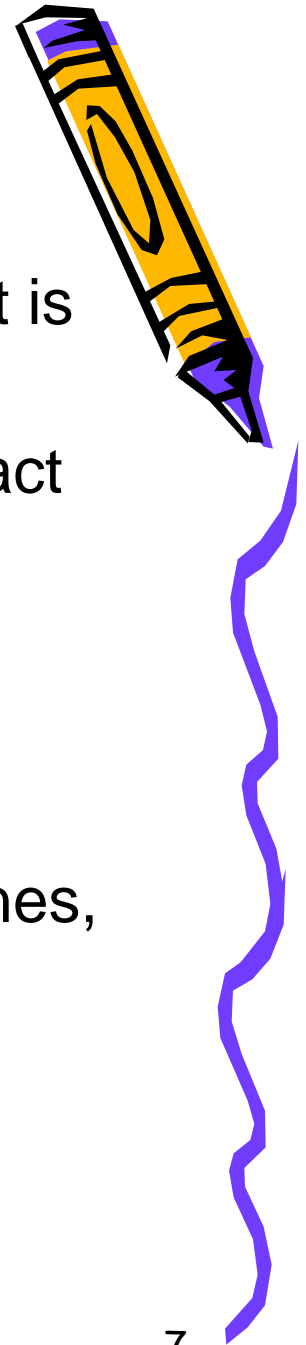
DIABETES PROJECTS

- Varied and innovative
- Shaped for and by the communities in question
- Scattered across the province
- Practitioners with heart
- Exciting and transformative activities and outcomes – report needs to capture and portray this honestly and fully



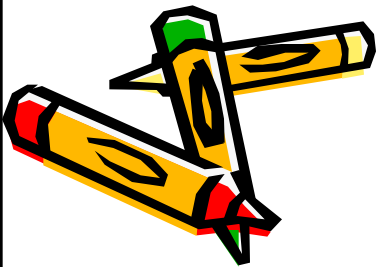
Why produce a report

- To share what we did and to understand what is going on (new knowledge)
- To empower communities and individuals to act for themselves (new skills)
- To create change (action)
- To understand how projects develop and succeed
- To improve programs services, create new ones, identify gaps
- To give community members a "voice"
- To hold groups accountable



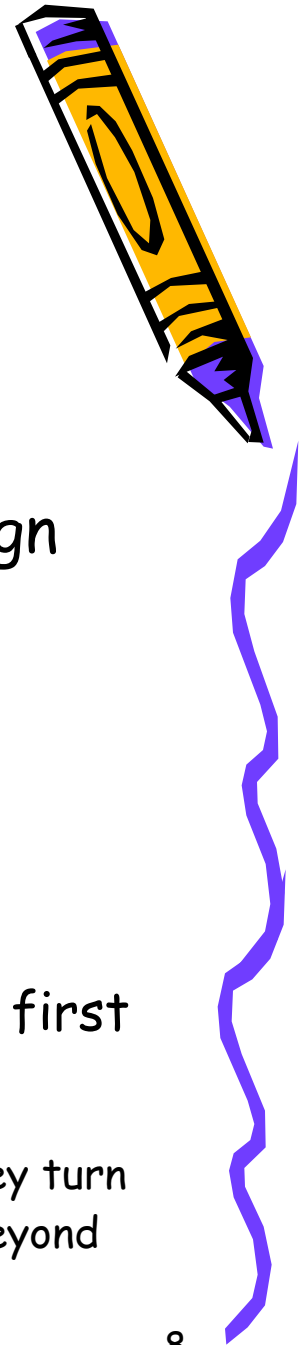
Developing a community driven project report writing process

- We visit the projects
- Design and deliver a combination training design and initial collection process
 - Ground participants in basic skills of story telling/qualitative research/report writing
 - Encourage story telling (data gathering)
 - Solicit and record participants insights
 - Utilize participant knowledge and insights to design first draft of report



"Our stories make the dead dance & the living soar. They turn water into wine & rocks into gold. They give us power beyond our wildest dreams." Brian Andreas, *Hearing Voices*

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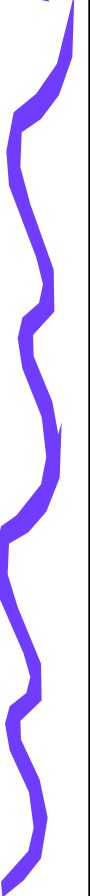
Report writing is not rocket science

- **Traditional report writing**

- Imposed from outside
- Contractual obligation, must be done to outside standards
- Judgment on performance by an outside unknown audience expected to be critical
- Focus mainly on accountability
- Author is responsible to funder
- Report at project end

- **Participatory reporting**

- Developed internally
- Multiple outcomes, one of which meets contract requirements
- Focuses on sharing learning and emerging needs
- Ethical and philosophical as well as funder accountability
- Outsider as facilitator, coach and work horse, answers to project
- Ongoing feedback, multiple use data and reports



Stages of translating qualitative research (stories) through qualitative analysis (making meaning) into a written report



RAW DATA ----- organized & sorted ----INFORMATION ----- evaluated & assessed ----- FINDINGS

Recollecting our experiences

Reframing our stories

Writing up their meanings

Collected ethically
Stored responsibly
transcribed accurately

Themes, categories, sub categories, examples presented in logical and intuitive ways

Connections, patterns, links, illumination and understanding, what we now know and the implications emerging

Systematic, transparent and accurate – this is what must characterize our work so people will trust what we say (reliable and valid)



Developing a community driven project report writing process



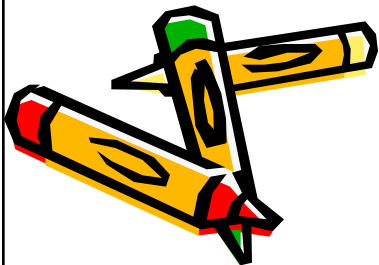
Formal report

- Executive summary
- Introduction and statement of the problem
- Description of activities
- Results or findings
- Conclusion

Story telling

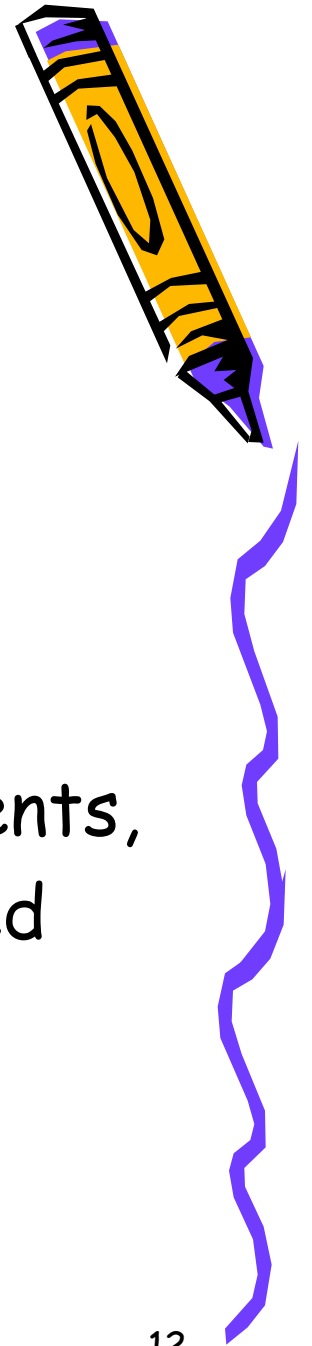
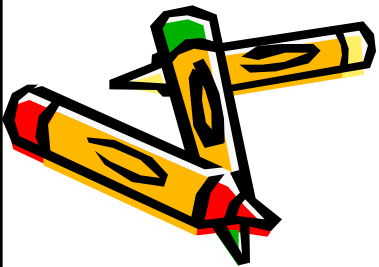
- Once upon a time
- Who, what and where
- What happened
- What happened next
- And the moral of the story

"Analysis? Reports? Data? It's all about making meaning, getting people to listen and understand, taking it from our lives, into words, onto a page and into the hearts and minds of some strangers in some other place. The better we are at each stage, the better we are at helping others, or convincing somebody with funds to fund us." *anon*



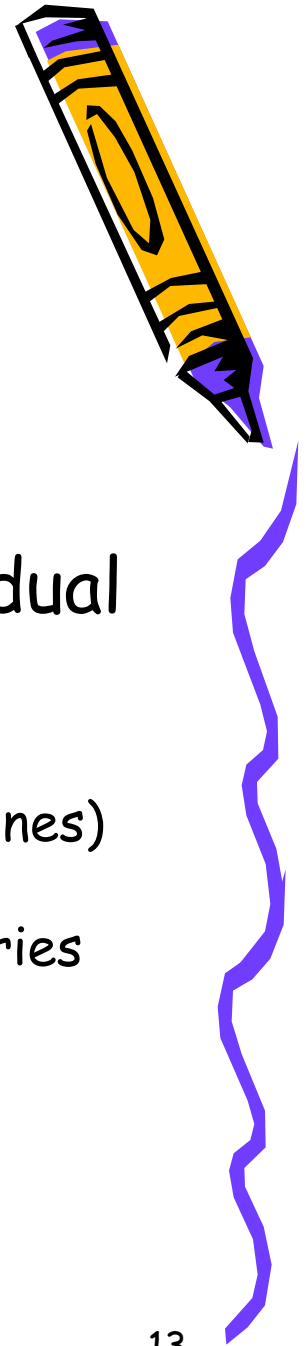
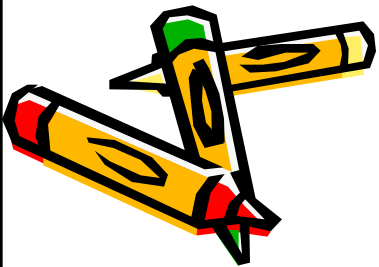
Drawing a timeline

- Draw a timeline of your individual experience with the project
 - Be sure to include significant events, moments that stand out, funny incidents, important people, networks you leaned on



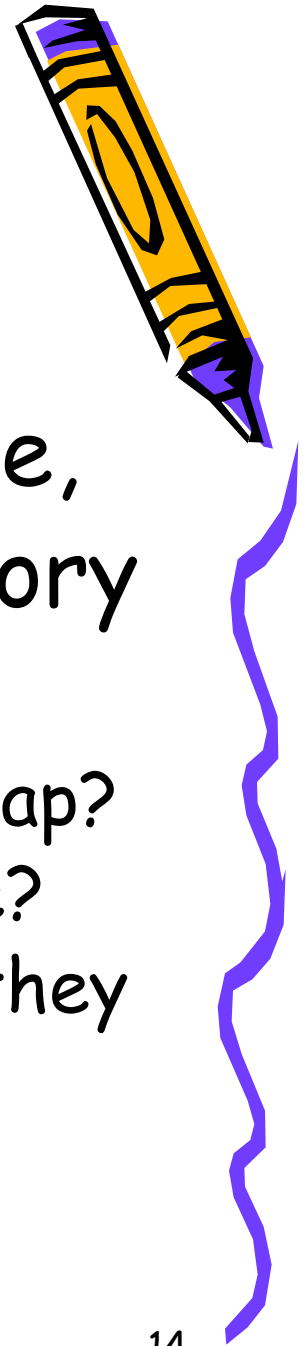
Close to the bone

- Finding the bones in a story
 - In preparation for hearing the individual timelines
 - Role play (Cathryn tells a story - T identifies bones)
 - Review bones - (Group identifies bones in stories as participants present their timelines)



Drawing a collective timeline -mapping the project

- Calling on your individual timeline, help construct a collective memory of the project - Where do your memories and stories fit on the group map? Which stories showed up more than once? Which stories had people forgotten till they heard them again from someone else?



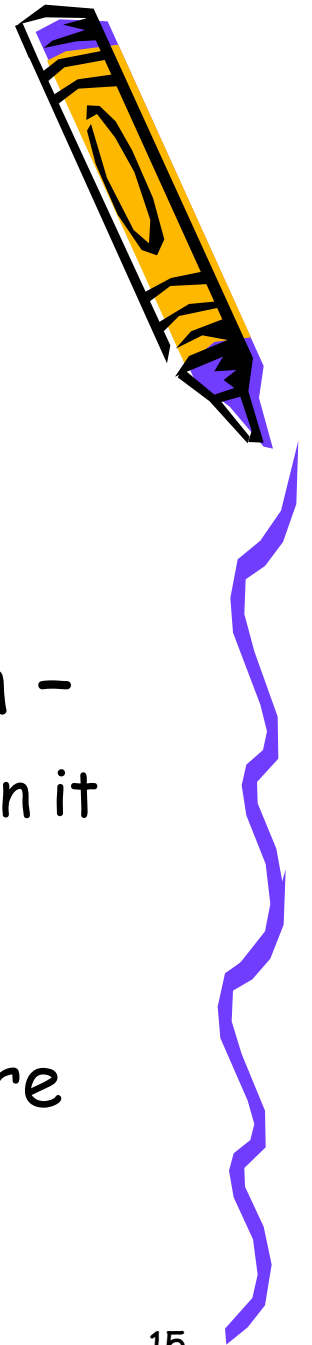
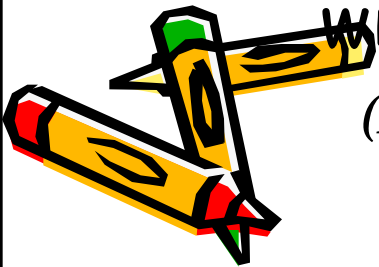
Power of stories

In Small groups -Retrospective reflections

- Share and record two stories each -
 - One that illustrates what we can do when it works well
 - One of the toughest stories
- Select the 2 most interesting to share with the large group

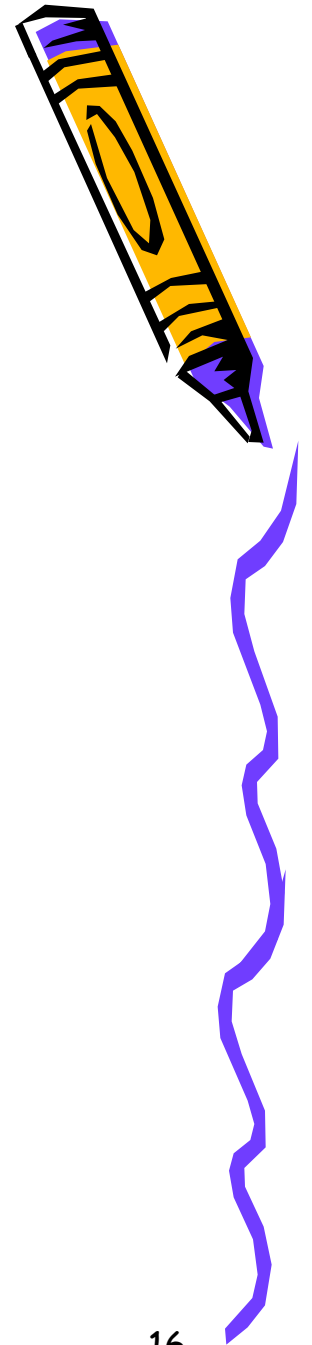
(note all the stories will be carried away)

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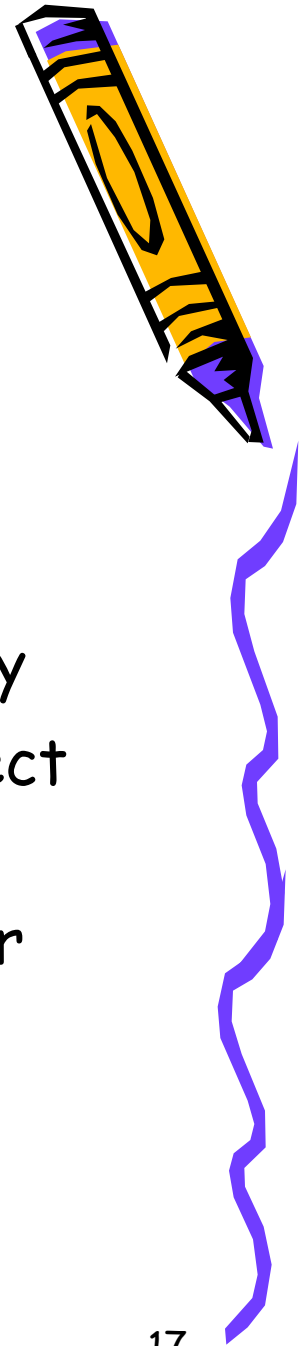
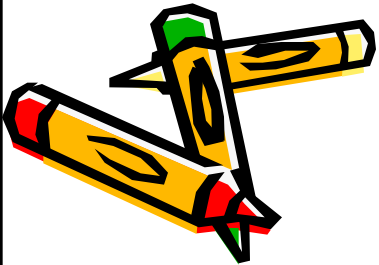
Finding and Making Meaning

- What is analysis?
 - Making order
 - Making sense
 - Making meaning



Finding and Making Meaning

- The proof of the pudding is in the eating!
 - We say what we mean, we mean what we say
 - Role play - group tells one story from project in pieces, Theresa analyzes
 - What key questions and discussions uncover the analysis?
 - Share more stories to analyse



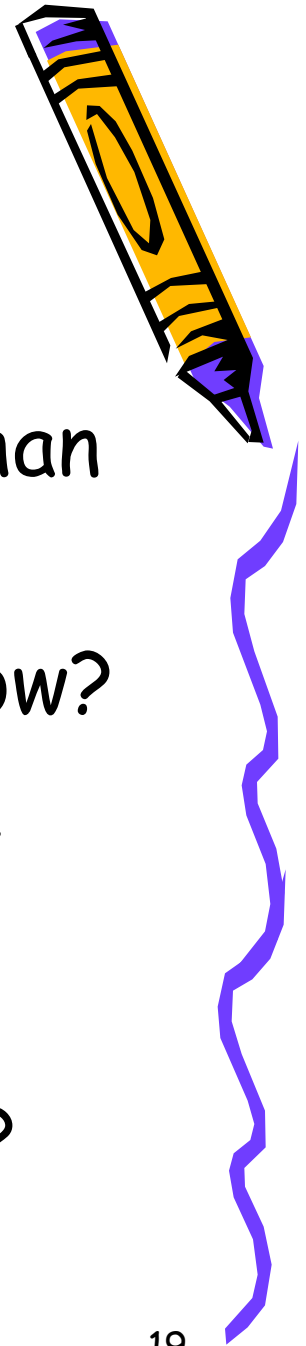
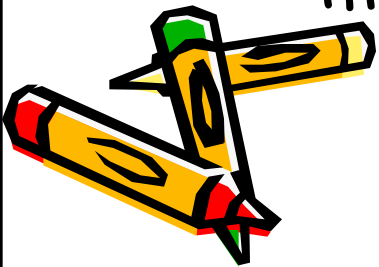
Finding and Making Meaning

- What are the lessons?
- What are the values and norms in our stories?
- What are the defining moments? Where is the climax?
- What illustrates our projects?
- What makes the link between what we did (project activities, our stories) and what we said we would do (goals and objectives)



Speaking our truth- key messages

- What is our key message? More than one?
- Who do we want to present to? How?
- What else do we need to make the document live?
 - Photos, quilt square stories, quotes, more stories? Poetry? Video? Other?



Next steps: We quilt the pieces



Stages of a formal report

- Research the project
- Gather the data and evidence
- Collate and review the materials
- Analyze the data
- Write up the report as activities, findings and conclusion

Stages of Story telling

- Gather participants
- Remember and share what t happened
- Organize the stories
- Agree on what the important messages are
- Summarize the stories

We will marry these two approaches so the report is eloquent and powerful and the stories are robust and rigorous.



"Tell me a story." children the world over to tired parents

Next steps: We quilt the pieces

Stages of Production

- Complete workshops with other projects
- Collate all the stories and meanings
- Create and circulate first draft by end of August
- Community and committee reviewers (Diabetes Reference group and public health leaders for feedback)
- Creation of second draft - for November 15/16 conference
 - For polishing, refining, validation and acceptance
- Final draft circulated as directed

The world is not made up of atoms; it is made up of stories. *Muriel Ruckyeser*

Theresa Healy & Cathryn Wellner 2003

