

My Story in Six Words Wall

Organizer Guide

A reflective activity inviting community members to capture their identity, values, or family story in exactly six words. Inspired by the Six Word Memoir format, this program fosters personal storytelling and empathy in a low-pressure, visual way. The resulting wall becomes a vibrant collage of diverse voices and experiences.

Advanced Planning: Goals and Steps

Goals:

- Encourage self-expression and reflection through concise storytelling.
- Build community by sharing personal stories that reveal commonalities and differences.
- Introduce a storytelling warm-up that complements the One Small Step mission.
- Create a visual, evolving display that celebrates identity and voice.

Steps:

- Prepare Materials:
 - Provide slips of paper or index cards, markers, and tape or pins.
 - Create signage explaining the “Six Word Story” concept with examples like:
“Immigrant daughter learning to lead others.”
“I am more than just my past.”
 - Decide on a physical wall space or digital board (Padlet, Jamboard, etc.) where submissions will be displayed.
- Set Up the Wall: Dedicate a visible, accessible wall area or digital display in the teen or community section.
- Attach clear instructions and examples nearby.

- Include a submission box or designate a spot for participants to add their stories.
- Engage Participants: Invite participants to write their six-word story whenever they visit or during special programming sessions.
- Update the wall regularly to keep the display engaging.

Marketing

- Use social media posts highlighting select six-word stories (with permission).
- Feature the activity during teen programming or community events.
- Promote through flyers, your community newsletters, and staff recommendations.
- Emphasize the simplicity of the exercise.

Budgeting

A detailed budgeting breakdown for this activity is still being developed.

Advice

- Keep examples diverse and relatable to invite broad participation.
- Offer prompts for those who get stuck, such as, “Six words about my family,” “Six words that describe my future,” or “Six words that explain who I am.”
- Keep submissions anonymous.