


# **Storytelling: How to Amplify Student & Teacher Voice**

# Why are stories important?

- Helps us remember and retain
- Builds empathy and understanding
- Provides rich context

A black and white portrait of Maya Angelou, an elderly woman with short, curly hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a dark top and a necklace. The background is a plain, light color.

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

*-Maya Angelou*



**Our brains are  
wired for  
stories.**

# Brain Chemistry of Story



Attention is a scarce resource, yet, a good story has the ability to completely capture us... why? And not only capture, story can change our behavior.

## BRAIN CHEMICALS:

- Oxytocin is the trust and empathy hormone
- Cortisol is the "focus" hormone

# "If You Ask Me..."





**"I think that schools need to help provide the youth with our life goals, because we are the future of the country ... We learn for tests now instead of learning for knowledge."**

- Jacob Gutierrez

If you ask me...

16th grade  
18 years old

Capital High School  
Santa Fe



**"I think [school] would be more fun if we played more math games. I hoped that school would be more fun and that there would be more nice kids."**

- Ben Mauldin

If you ask me

3rd grade  
8 years old

Mitchell Elementary  
Albuquerque



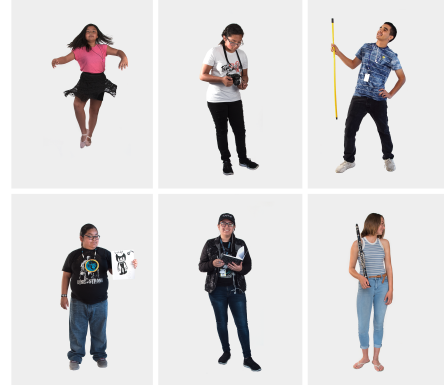
**"I feel like you never stop learning in life. Every obstacle teaches you something different regardless of whether it's good or bad, you walk away with something learned."**

- Lily Camunez

If you ask me...

12th grade  
18 years old

New America High School  
Albuquerque



**"The reason that we are becoming less and less engaged as we become older in school is because we aren't allowed to move as much... You get bored of just sitting there and you don't have a way to get out that energy..."**

- Olivia Leon

If you ask me

8th grade  
13 years old

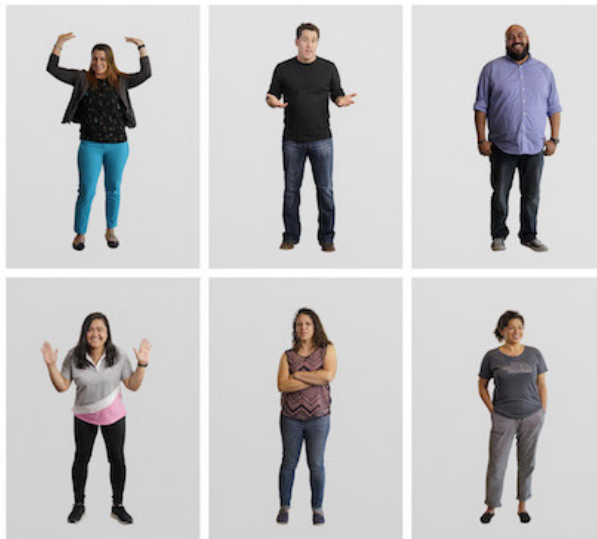
Sierra Middle School  
Las Cruces



Debra Sandoval-Woodward  
Subject: Art

**“I’m not  
looking for  
correct  
answers. I  
encourage  
mistakes.”**

Grants Cibola County Schools  
Years teaching: 36



Patrik Nkouaga  
Subject: French & Spanish

**“A student  
once told me,  
‘Go back  
where  
you came  
from.’”**

Siembra Leadership High School, Albuquerque  
Years teaching: 3



Toni Wright  
Subject: Social Studies

**“I tell my  
students:  
your opinion  
matters.  
Now  
prove it.”**

Taos High School, Taos  
Years teaching: 22





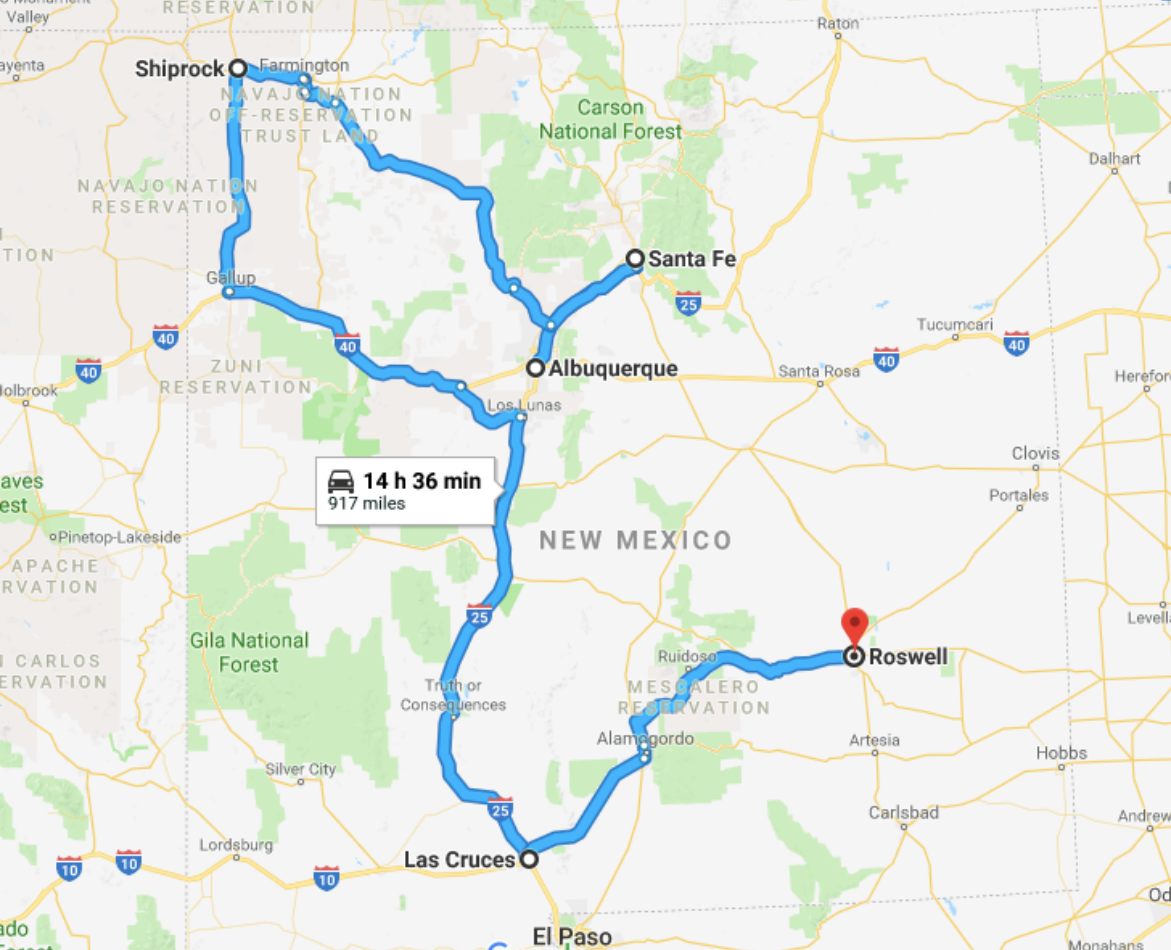
# How We Did It

A portrait of Debra Sandoval-Woodward, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a black blazer, a black top, a black skirt, and a necklace. She is standing in front of a black rectangular frame. The background of the entire graphic is orange with white and yellow circular patterns.

Debra Sandoval-Woodward  
Subject: Art

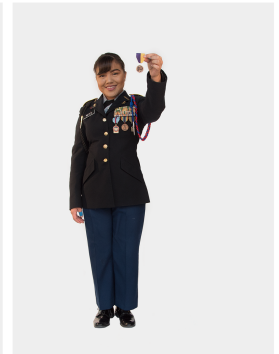
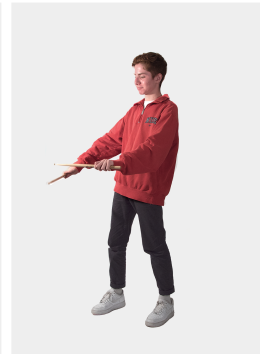
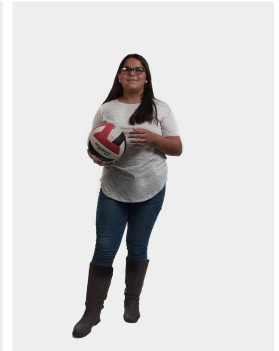
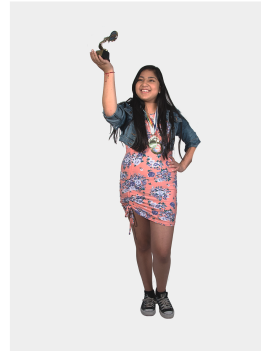
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Grants Cibola County Schools  
Years teaching: 36

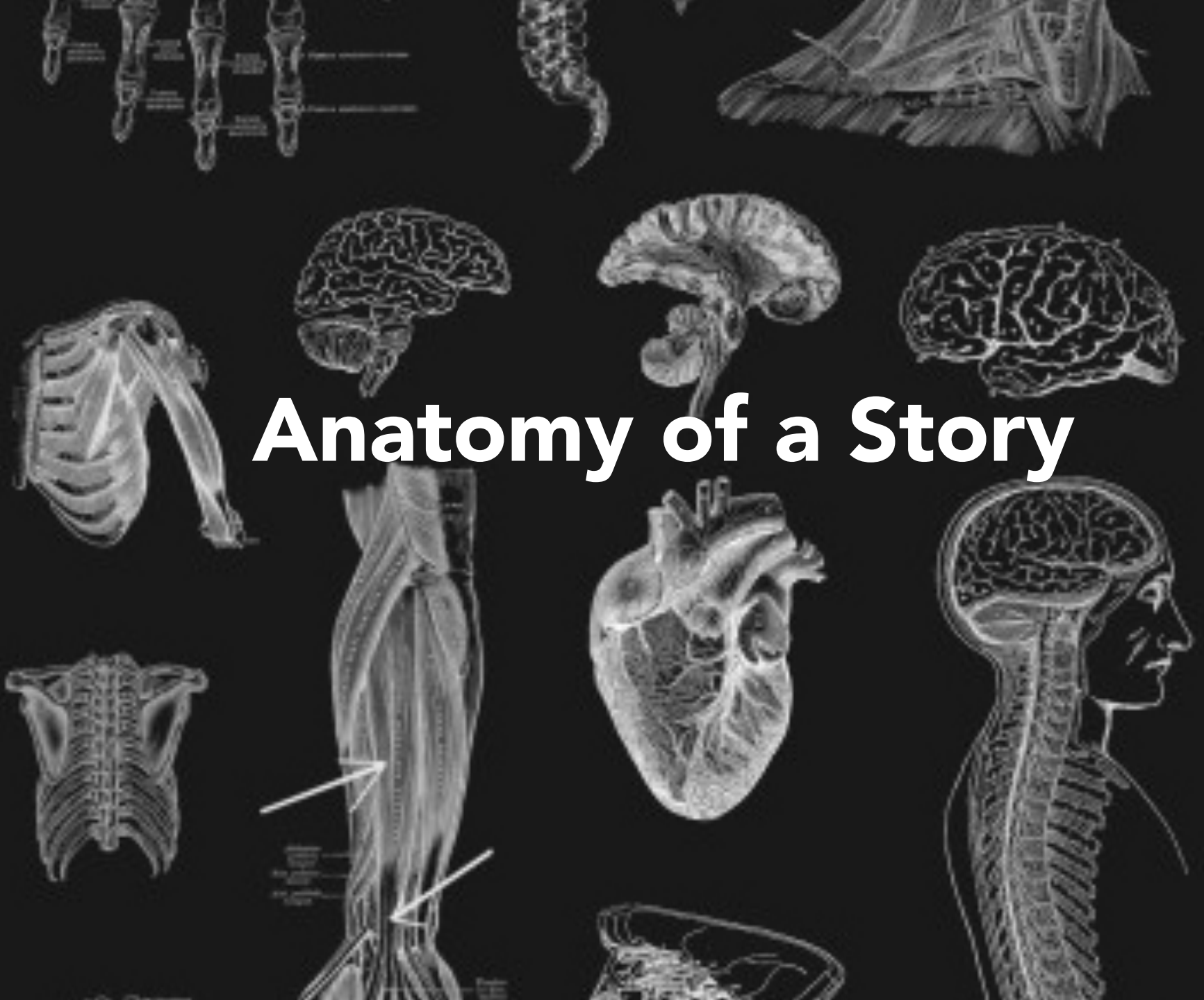




# What story did you connect with most?



# Anatomy of a Story



# How to find stories

- Three Rs:
  - Real
  - Relatable
  - Relevant



# Anatomy of a Story

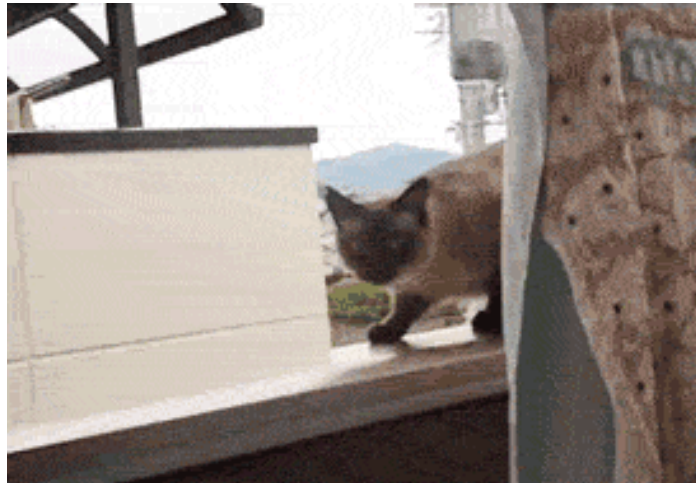
- What is your AIM?
  - Audience
  - Intent
  - Message

# Anatomy of a Story

- The 4 Cs
  - Character
  - Conflict
  - Closure
  - Call to Action



# Why cat videos?



# Olivia's story



If you  
ask  
me ☺☺

**“The reason that we are becoming less and less engaged as we become older in school is because we aren’t allowed to move as much...You get bored of just sitting there and you don’t have a way to get out that energy...”**

- Olivia Leon

8<sup>th</sup> grade  
13 years old

Sierra Middle School  
Las Cruces

# Patrik's story



**Patrik Nkouaga**  
**Subject: French & Spanish**

**“A student  
once told me,  
‘Go back  
where  
you came  
from.’”**

**Siembra Leadership High School, Albuquerque**  
**Years teaching: 3**

# Shawna's story



**Shawna Carter**  
**Subject: AP Science & Engineering**

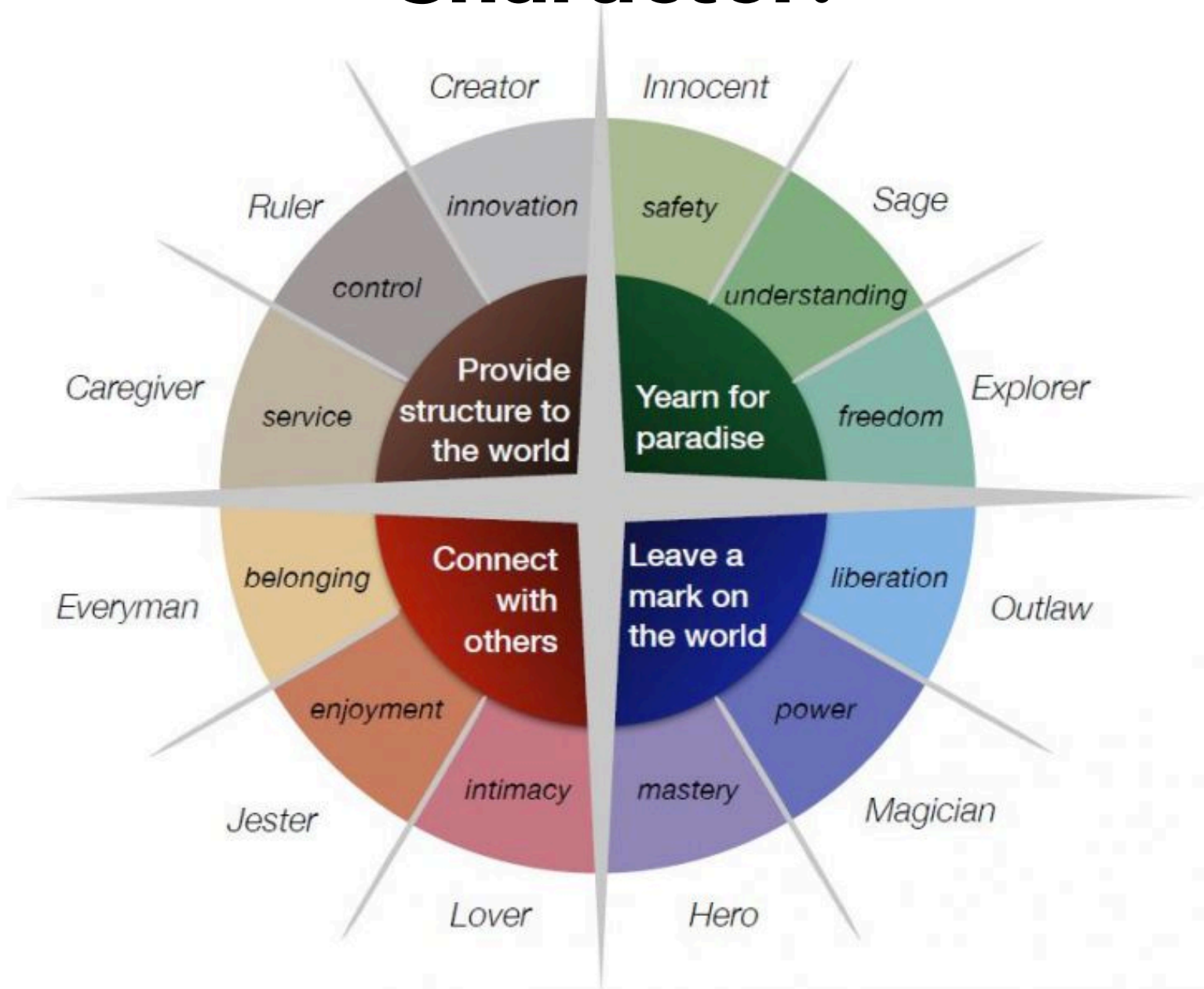
**“I hand  
them a box  
of rocket  
parts and  
step  
away.”**

**Alamogordo High School, Alamogordo**  
**Years teaching: 10**

# Your Turn



# Character:



# Conflict:



# Closure:





# Call to action:

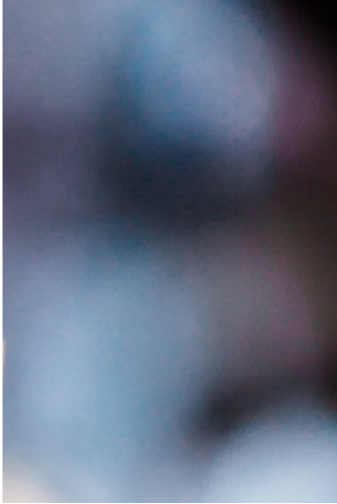
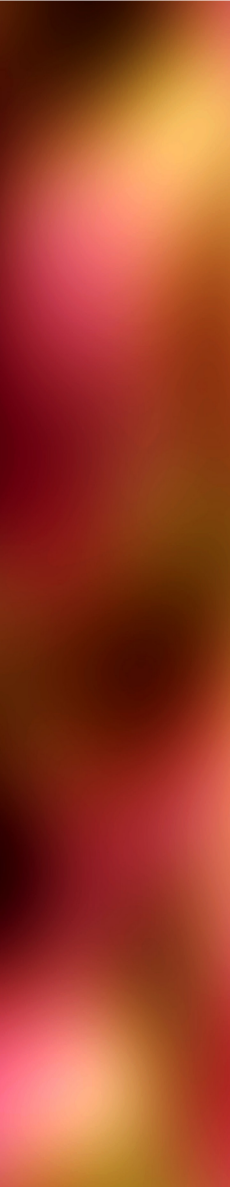


# Story Time

- Share with partner
- What is your AIM?
- Let your partner identify the character, conflict, closure, and call to action

# Storytelling as a tool for teaching + learning

- Debate / persuasion
- History
- Writing and language learning
- Contextualization
- Memorization
- Advocacy / policy change



**Great  
work!**