

## Embodying your Best Story: Positive Psychology and Narrative Practices

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### Introductions

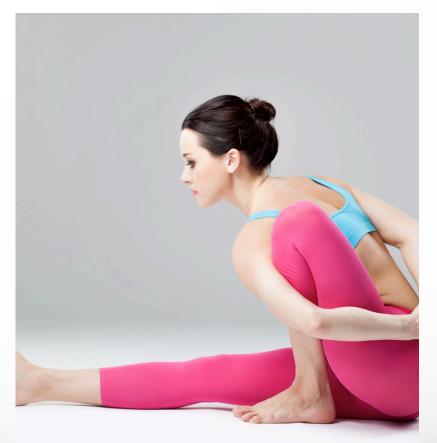




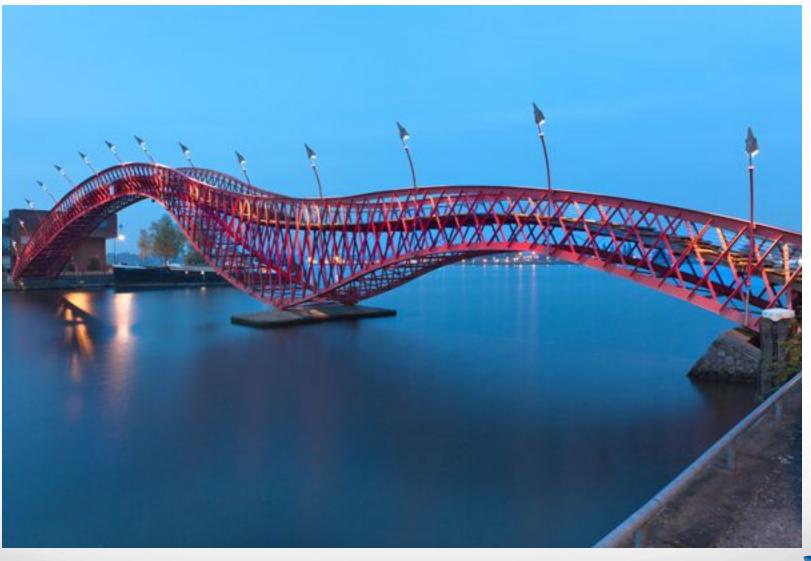














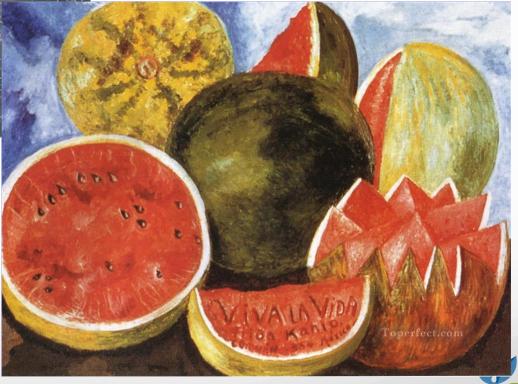








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# Positive Psychology

# Narrative Practices



- "Narrative Turn" in Social Sciences
- Text analogy
- A narrative view of identity
- Narrative Practices

   Dominant stories
   Alternative Stories
- Storying our wellbeing experiences
- Experiential exercise(s)



## Homo Sapiens





### Homo Narrativus



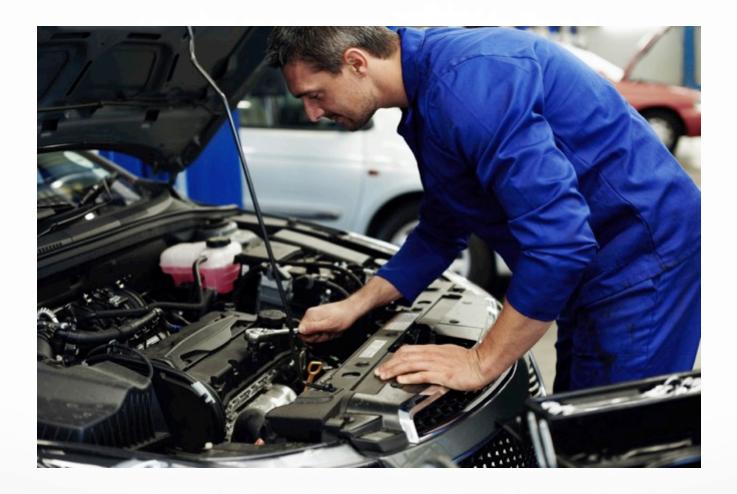
### "Narrative Turn"















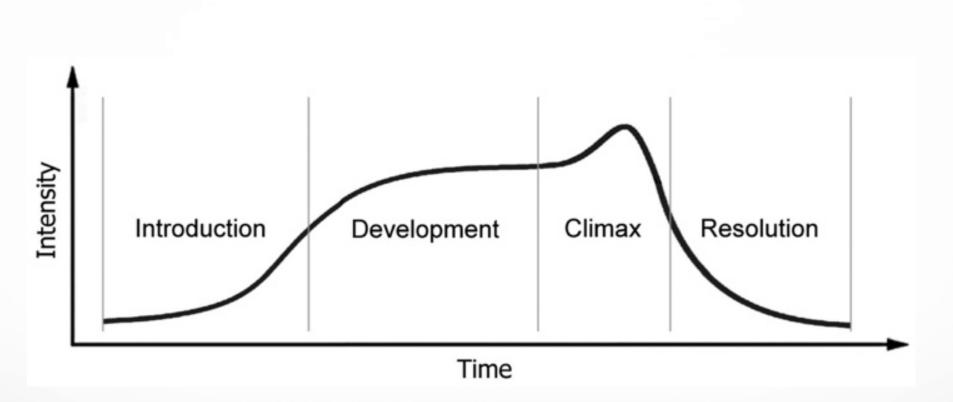
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#### Stories

- Events
- Linked over time
- Beginning
- Developments
- Outcomes
- Plots
- Meaning



Jerome Bruner (1986)

- Narrative Psychology
- Meaning making





#### Bruner

#### Identity : "Traficking" of our life stories and those of others



#### Bruner

• We become the narratives that we construct to tell our lives (1997)



"The self is an on-going autobiography; or, to be more exact, it is a self-other multifaceted biography that we constantly pen and edit"

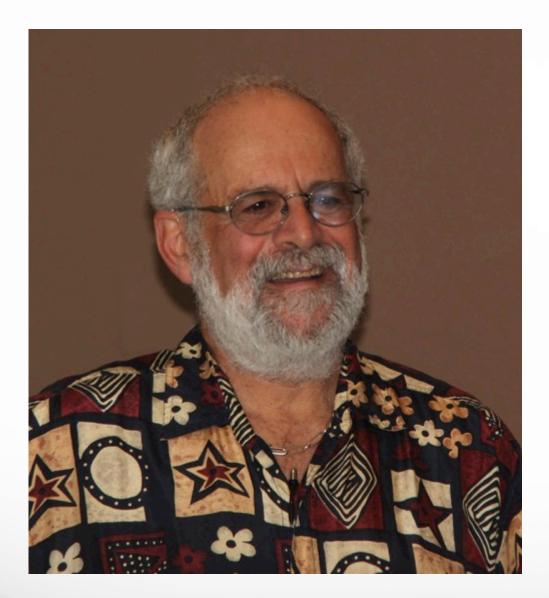
- Harlene Anderson





# Michael White





## **David Epston**



"The same events can be storied in a variety of ways and these different ways will make a difference in how life is experienced."

- Jill Freedman and Gene Combs (2010)



# X X X X X X X

### X X X X X X X X

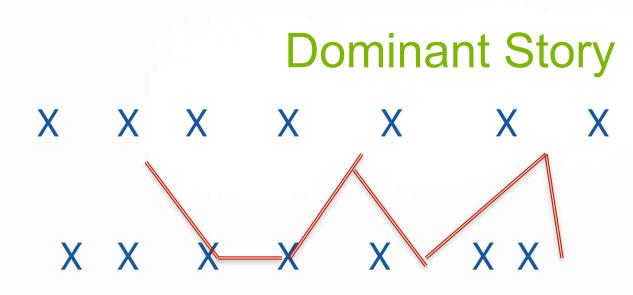
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### Dominant Story "I am mediocre"

- Not excited about a "great" job
- Studies but does not remember
- Hard to remember details of clients' lives





X X X X X X



AlternativeStory "A passionate philanthropist"

- Volunteers with community organization
- Leads "naturally"
- Created more efficient "production line"
- Wants to work in difficult situations



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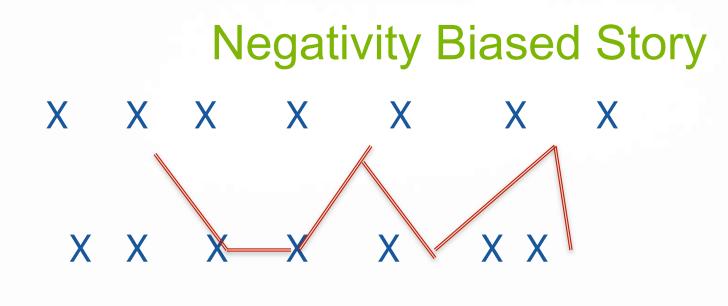
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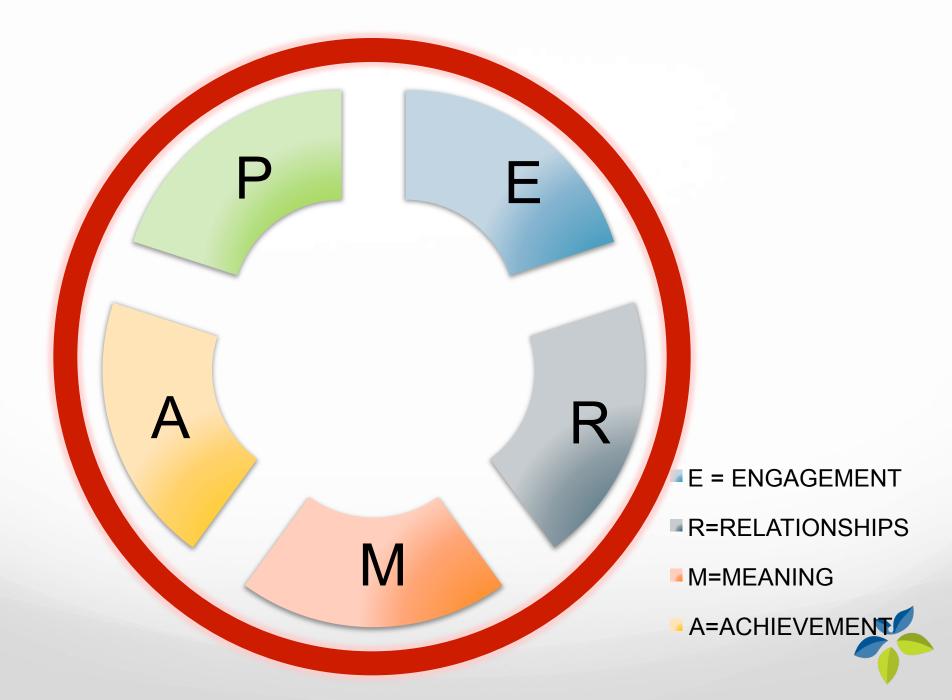


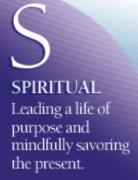
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Positivity Inclusive Story X X X X X X X ХХ ХХ Х Χ Х Х Χ Х Х







PHYSICAL Listening to and caring for the body.

### INTELLECTUAL

Cultivating a life-long love of learning, wisdom, and art. RELATIONAL Contributing to and benefitting from community. EMOTIONAL Developing resilience and enjoying positive emotions.



# Exercise 1

## • A narrative interview about your strengths



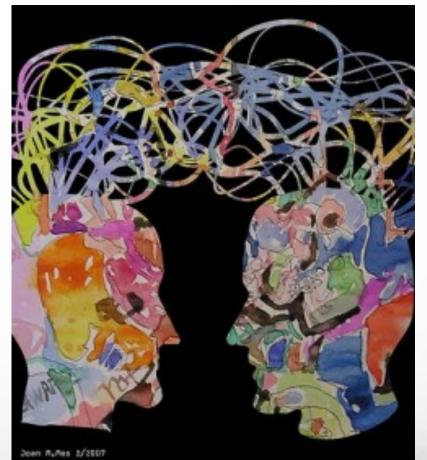






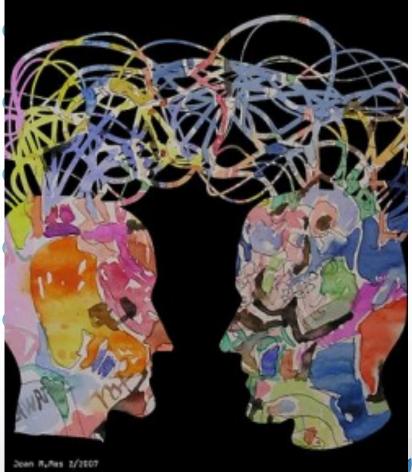
- Who
- What
- Where
- When
- With whom

- What was important about this?
- What did it mean to you?
- What does it say about you?
- How does this fit with something you value?
- What implications does it have for the future?









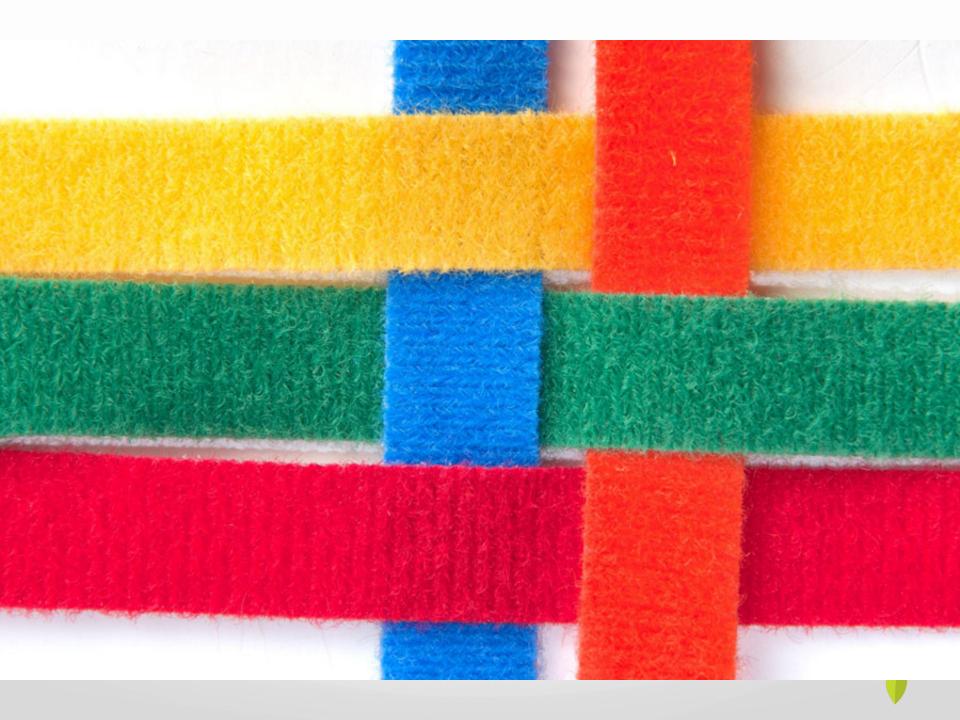


# Exercise 3

# A narrative interview about your values and dreams







- Denborough, D. (2014). Retelling the stories of our lives: Everyday narrative therapy to draw inspiration and transform experience.
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- Tarragona, M. (2012) *Positive Identities: Positive Psychology and Narrative Practices*.
- White, M. (2007). *Maps of narrative practice*.

