



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Stories that Teach: A Masterclass for Educators and Professionals

*Centre for
Continuing Education*



Stories that Teach: A Masterclass for Educators and Professionals

If you want to be a master presenter, join this inspiring course about storytelling techniques for educators and professionals. Stories have a thousand and one uses in presentations, groupwork, online courses and face-to-face training sessions.

Take your storytelling to a new level by learning how to build a teaching metaphor. Hear how to use stories to trigger learning, engage a group, explain complex concepts, spice up dry content, embed important messages or respond to difficult group dynamics. Learn to use a range of story formats and decide where to place teaching metaphors in a presentation or training session.

Try out a step-by-step process for creating an 'isomorphic metaphor' that teaches and entertains. Get tips for using AI to craft stories, without losing your authentic voice. Then learn to deliver your stories with flair, using advanced stagecraft techniques designed specifically for storytelling in training or groupwork settings.

Delivery style

This course is delivered as an interactive workshop. You will be involved in group conversations, group story-building and mini presentations. There will be several opportunities to ask the course facilitator questions or request tips for dealing with your real life situations. You will get the most from this course if you are:

- willing to contribute to group discussions and activities
- confident communicating verbally in English
- comfortable presenting to groups
- using a computer with a working camera and microphone (if enrolling in an online session).



Course duration

1 session, 8 hours total



Time

9am - 5pm



Format

Face-to-face
or
Online in real-time



Dates

Browse available
[course dates](#)

Prerequisites

This is an advanced level course for professionals who already deliver training or change-focused group sessions. You will get the most from it if you are experienced presenting to groups and want to use stories as triggers for learning, problem-solving or personal growth. A basic understanding of adult learning, or groupwork theory will be assumed.



Upon completion

Every participant receives a University of Sydney certificate of completion.



Aims

We want you to learn how to design and deliver compelling stories that inspire learning. Our aim is to demonstrate how teaching metaphors differ from 'stories as entertainment', so you can add new depth to your work as an educator or professional.



Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- define the difference between stories and teaching metaphors
- choose appropriate placements and formats for your teaching metaphors, so they will inspire reflection and learning
- use the isomorphic teaching metaphor model to generate ideas for stories
- build an engaging, relevant plot for your teaching metaphor
- use AI to speed up the process of story development, whilst ensuring your story sounds authentic and your characters resonate with your audience
- debrief stories to ensure your 'teaching point' is communicated to learners or group members
- use advanced stagecraft techniques to bring your stories to life in presentations, classes or online programs.



Content

Topic 1: What is a teaching metaphor?

Storytelling for educators and professionals is a specialised field. Whether you want to use stories to teach adult learners, prompt group discussion or help your clients solve problems, you need to master the basics of crafting teaching metaphors. In this module, you'll learn the difference between simple stories and teaching metaphors. Plus, you'll hear how to use the Isomorphic Metaphor Model to create stories that spark learning.

Topic 2: Placing and formatting stories

Where you place your teaching metaphor can be as important as what it contains. This topic explores how to use story placement and formatting strategically, to ensure that the 'teaching point' comes across clearly. You'll hear techniques for using stories to spark discussion and reflection, as well as ways to create a 'story arc' that ensures your message is remembered.

Topic 3: Six steps for building Isomorphic Metaphors

The Isomorphic Metaphor Model provides the blueprint for creating teaching metaphors that inspire learning. In this session, you'll explore each of the six steps and how apply them. Then you'll use the Isomorphic Metaphor Model come up with an idea for a story to use in an upcoming training, teaching or groupwork session.



Content cont...

Topic 4: Creating a plot that teaches a process

Teaching metaphors don't just entertain. They subtly educate by mirroring the steps of the process or concept you are teaching. Discover how to create a plot that carries a powering learning message. Then, hear how to create characters that speak to your audience and communicate that message more deeply.

Topic 5: Complementing your storytelling voice with AI

Technology is transforming the way trainers, facilitators and educators build stories. That's great news because it speeds up instructional design. It's also a problem if you want to create stories that sound authentic and don't come across as mechanical or monotonous. Learn how to use AI to complement your own natural storytelling voice, whilst helping you work faster and smarter. This session will include practical tips on structuring AI prompts to generate high-quality content that aligns with your objective of using storytelling in professional, education or groupwork contexts.

Topic 6: Five debrief techniques every storyteller should use

In this session, you'll hear five invaluable debriefs that will ensure that the 'teaching point' of your story is remembered. These include guided discussions, reflective note-taking exercises, playback learning sessions, fishbowl activities and cartooning processes.

Topic 7: Bringing teaching metaphors to life on stage

This module is all about taking your teaching metaphor from the page to the presentation platform. You'll experiment with advanced stagecraft techniques including spatial anchoring, scene-setting, costuming and character enactment.



Intended audience

This course is for experienced presenters, trainers, educators, teachers, lecturers, facilitators, course creators, groupwork practitioners, organisational development specialists and counsellors or psychologists with an interest in group therapy.



"A whole new way of thinking about how to help others learn through storytelling. Great materials, great process, and engaging and very knowledgeable facilitator!"

Samantha Allen



Organisational training and development

This course can be delivered as a private session for groups, and tailored to meet the needs of your business. Contact us to discuss our range of organisational training solutions.

[Learn more](#)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all.

Empower ambition,
inspire leadership

For more information

Centre for Continuing Education
+61 2 7255 1577

cce.sydney.edu.au

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