



IT'S
PERSONAL.

GUIDELINES FOR A SUCCESSFUL STORYTELLING PIECE

IT'S PERSONAL: FIRST READS

- Does your piece have a clearly defined structure?
 - Does it have different levels?
 - A beginning, middle, and an end?
 - What is the format of your story? Is it a poem, a list, an essay, or stream of consciousness? Does this format best serve the story you're trying to tell?
- Who are you talking to?
- Why are you telling this story?
- What's at stake in your story? Could the stakes be higher? (Hint: the higher the better!)
- Is your piece an opinion or a story? If it's an opinion, how can we change it into a story?
- Where are you telling your story? How does your environment inform your story?
- Does the piece allow you to be vulnerable with the audience? If not, does that serve the story you're telling or the audience you're telling it to?
- Your story can be in past or present tense. What tense makes your story more active?
- Do not judge yourself for your writing. Trust yourself and your ability to tell this story.
- Practice it out loud! Tell it, don't read it.
- Have fun writing! This process should be enjoyable!