

A *Telling* Template

You can write your *Telling* by filling in this template! The very first thing to realize is that you *don't* have to start at the *beginning*! By having this template in front of you, you will be able to 'fill-in-the' blanks both forwards and backwards until you have the entire *Telling* right before your very eyes! Start by filling in the information you recall for now. Then go back and fill in the in-between parts as they return to your memory and as you feel inspired.

You can begin with 'the facts', that is, *What Experience* are you telling about? *What Happened?* Feel free to change names and places if this provides a sense of comfort—it doesn't matter to your reader what the *real* name was—what will matter is the time you take to flesh out the setting and emotions and individuals surrounding the event. So, just like in grade school: *Who, What, When, Where*, and....

Why! This is where you get to shine your light on the learning that took place in this life experience. As you are filling in the 'facts' in the template below, listen with your heart to the memory of the lessons learned. Take a moment to reflect on how you felt at the time. Remember that your reader is probably reading *your* *Telling* because of the similarity of it with their own present or recent experience. Their feelings are not so long removed as yours may be. And yet, it is because of the impact of this experience that you are telling about it. So, listen to those feelings...step back for a moment in time... you'll look with amazement on just how very far you've come since then!

Tie it all together. Walk us briefly through the overview of the situation one more time and then sum up the blessings, the lessons learned, the wisdom of the



“Need a good friend who believes in your writing? Be that friend for yourself. Believe in your creativity, and tell yourself that you do every day.”

Roy Sorrels

“I couldn't wait for success, so I went ahead without it.”

Jonathan Winters

“A plot is...a narrative of events, the emphasis falling on causality ‘The

journey you took. If you had it to do over again, what would you say to yourself as you ventured forth? This is probably the most important part of your *Telling*; however, there are many advice-givers in this world—advice is cheap, they say—but not when you take the time to underpin it with the personal knowledge of having walked the walk and talked the talk. We look forward to your *Telling*!

Telling Touch



Your life has been a treasure of wisdom beyond measure. Yet the fullness of that treasure may never be known unless you are willing to share the abundance of your wisdom with others. Only then will you fully understand the true worth of your life well-lived. You have the power to lighten the load and clear the path for those of us who follow after.

*Change is not easy for anyone! And none are perfect... Yet that is all that life consists of—constant change and imperfection. And yet, you have gone ahead of us and know the path! Many await your report. You hold knowledge and wisdom and have insights to share to prepare us for the journey ahead. Thank you for sharing your *TellingTouch* with us!*

The *Telling* Template

Highlight and replace the text below with your own words!

Your Title: Keep the Title short; for example: ***Hitting the Wall at Full-Speed!***

Your Sub-Title: Make it descriptive; for example, ***How to Put First Things First***

Author—By Line: Include your name here. You do not have to use your real name—a penname is fine. Remember that you do retain the copyright to your work! Read the copyright notice box below.

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A Note about You: This doesn't have to get very personal—just a sentence or two will suffice. Tell us a bit about you in this section, eg. *"I'm a business man of nearly thirty years now. I have a wife, two sons and three grandchildren. My interests include golfing, reading mystery novels and getting away on short trips whenever possible. I've had many life experiences and wanted to share one TellingTouch. You never know, it just might help others avoid some of the mistakes I've made in the past!"*

Dedication Line: If you would like to dedicate your Telling to someone, you should enter that here. (Example: *This Telling is dedicated to my nephew, Bobby*)

Quotation: If you would like to share a quotation to go along with your Telling, this is where you would insert it! (Example: *"Love has never cared about my schedule. It just barges in whenever it wants."*)

A Foreword: Write one or two sentences about the general theme of your Telling, eg. *"Full of gusto for life, I tried to do it all, have it all and be it all, but it seemed Life had a few other lessons in mind for me: Patience and Humility, to name two! Never one to learn the easy way, it took my world crashing down around me, but I've never forgotten the cost or the teacher."*

Use the following pages to work the **Draft of your Telling!**
Remember, it's easy! Just answer the Five Questions:

Who? What? When? Where? Why? And, now.....

Four Telling

Tell us about the life experience you've chosen to share. Speak to us from your heart! We want to learn from you! Imagine us sitting there asking you questions. You have our undivided attention... Please tell us what it was like.

Who was involved? (Remember you don't have to use real names if you don't want to.)

What happened? (Be as detailed as necessary to explain the main elements of your experience.)

When did this happen? (Describe the approximate year or time in your life or your age—something to provide the time element of your experience.)

Where did this happen? (Was it in a specific geographical location? Was it a situation in one of your relationships?)

Now, tell us what you learned---Why! This is where you get to tell us about how this experience helped you to become who you are today. How it made you better and in what way. How has it made you stronger, wiser, more patient or more understanding? What has this life experience meant to you? Here are a few ideas to pick from to assist you with this part of your *Telling*:

- ❖ Why do you had to go through this experience?
- ❖ What was life trying to teach you in this experience?
- ❖ How are you better for having gone through it?
- ❖ How has the quality of your life changed for the better because of it?
- ❖ What did you learn?

If you are still having a hard time with the last part—think of it like this---

What if someone told you that what you went through wasn't important at all! You would tell them that they are very, very wrong, wouldn't you? Of course you would. The life experience you've just told us about is of infinite worth! But to hear you tell us what it meant to you in the final summation—well that's worth its weight in gold to us. Now, tell us Why...

If you had it to do all over again, what *Words of Wisdom* would you have liked to have had given to you beforehand? This can be short and to the point—what one or two things would you have like to have had in mind at the time?

Go ahead and look back over your Telling until you feel that you have adequately expressed this life-changing or lesson-learning experience. Let it sit awhile—you deserve a break. Come back to it in a little while—but don't wait too long! And don't worry endlessly about wanting it to be perfect! (Spell check is good enough!) It is not in the perfection of our writing skills that our care and concern for others is experienced—it is in our willingness to share and to 'tell it like it was!' that matters most of all. That is the *TellingTouch*—saying it like it really was—with all the emotions, learning, and wisdom... That's what *real* life is all about!

*I shall say what I feel and talk about myself
unto the last page, and I shall make
no apologies.”*

--- *Elizabeth Smart*

Reminders:

- ❖ Save your work as you go along. Use your Title as the File Name or your own name if you prefer. (Provide some way for us to identify this as 'your' *Telling*.)
- ❖ When you are done, be sure to save the final on your computer for yourself and your family. (Hopefully this will be the start of a treasury of Tellings for you and your loved ones!)
- ❖ Copy and paste your *Telling* on *TellingTouch* in *The Gathering Forum* (Go to TellingTouch.com and click on the link to the forum and sign-in. Add your *Telling* to an already-existing thread or start a new one!) If you have any difficulty please email your entry to Saijin at Saijin@tellingtouch.com.
- ❖ If you have pictures, art or audio files to add to your *Telling*, a special page will be created just for you! Your *Golden Telling* will be on *TellingTouch.com* in the *Golden Tellings* section. We will email you to let you know when it has been uploaded.

Thank you for taking the time to help others along their journey through life. Your wisdom can make a significant difference for another fellow human being. Thank you for your---

TellingTouch