

**ACE-DV Speakers
Initiative Series:**
*Navigating Challenges in
Storytelling with Audiences*



Breckan Erdman: Welcome, everyone! I'm Breckan from NRCDV, and I'll be moderating the chat box today. The webinar will start in about 25 minutes. In the meantime, feel free to introduce yourself here in the chat!

Rebecca Balog: Thank you, Breckan!

Breckan Erdman: Hi everyone! The webinar will be starting in just a few minutes.

Breckan Erdman: If you have not already done so, please dial 1-877-594-8353, pass code: 527-89-148# for audio. You may also listen through your computer.

Breckan Erdman: Although you can listen via your computer, we do recommend dialing in on your telephone for the best sound quality. If you experience any trouble with sound, please be sure to dial 1-877-594-8353, passcode: 527-89-148#.

Breckan Erdman: In the meantime, feel free to introduce yourself here in the chat! :)

Olga Trujillo: Hi Everyone, thanks for joining us today!

Casey Keene: Hey all! So happy to be here with all of you today!

Ruby White Starr: Hello everyone, looking forward to our conversation.

Jimmy: Good afternoon my friends, I am excited about this topic and hope to hear from all of you as well.

Natalie Ryckman: Hi! This is Natalie from the NH Coalition and I am excited for today's presentation

Breckan Erdman: Welcome! We're so happy to be with you today!

Jesse Steele: Hi everyone! Jesse here, Development Director at A Woman's Place in Bucks County, Pennsylvania (just outside Philly)

Breckan Erdman: Welcome!

Brittany McIntyre: Hello Everyone! Brittany McIntyre here, tuning in from Decorah, Iowa

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Breckan Erdman: Please submit your questions for the presenters here in the public chat – we will do our best to pose them during our time together.

Nia Key: Hello everyone! Nia Key listening in from Sioux City, IA

Breckan Erdman: Welcome, Nia!

Breckan Erdman: You can download NRC DV's We Stand statement here: <https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/files/2017-08/WE-STAND.pdf>

Breckan Erdman: From the Front of the Room guide: <https://vawnet.org/material/front-room-sharing-your-childhood-story-domestic-violence>

Breckan Erdman: Valuing Your Story webinar: <https://vawnet.org/material/ace-dv-speakers-initiative-series-valuing-your-story>

Breckan Erdman: Registration for our next ACE-DV webinar: https://events-na1.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/2356533113/en/events/event/shared/2796505577/event-registration.html?sco-id=2793960195&_charset=utf-8

Rebecca Balog: Thank you for the introductions, Casey!

Breckan Erdman: Be sure to ask any questions you have for our presenters here in the chat!

Cristina Aguayo Romero: Hi everyone! My name is Cristina and I am tuning in from Aurora, Illinois

Breckan Erdman: Welcome, Cristina!

Breckan Erdman: Where are you when it comes to sharing your story?

Debbie Ramirez: I've noticed that when I'm sharing my story in public I often tweak it to fit each different audience.

Tanaz Bamboat: Tanaz Bamboat

Tanaz Bamboat: Presenting my story on Bipolar depression

Breckan Erdman: That's a great point, Debbie! It's important to think about who your audience is when crafting your story.

Breckan Erdman: Welcome, Tanaz! Thank you for sharing your story.

Rebecca Balog: Brilliant! Idea from Olga: While presenting, you can hold the microphone. This way, you have the ability to reframe the question if it is asked in a way that might trigger yourself or others in the room. It is self-care and community care. Brilliant kindness!

Olga Trujillo: Ruby's point reminds me that you should trust your instincts

Olga Trujillo: If something doesn't feel right don't do it

Olga Trujillo: Jimmy, that's awesome. Your respect for your family's experience is awesome!

Debbie Ramirez: I have learned to make my boundaries very clear with the media. When I do public speaking and the newspaper is there to do a story. I am clear that I do not want them bashing my father because I know his side of the family will read the paper also or see the article online. I still respect their feelings in the situation

Olga Trujillo: Rebecca is so right! Honor yourself. Follow your instincts

Breckan Erdman: Thank you so much for this great wisdom, everyone!

Breckan Erdman: Boundaries are so important!

Rebecca Balog: Thank you, Ruby! The single-story is the birth of a stereotype. That is a wonderful housekeeping note for the beginning of any presentation. Every story is so very different and GREAT reminder!

Cristina Aguayo Romero: I second Rebecca - thanks Ruby!

Breckan Erdman: Yes!! Thank you for this important reminder!

Cristina Aguayo Romero: Thanks Olga for your examples

Olga Trujillo: Yes Rebecca is right! You are the expert of your own experience.

Olga Trujillo: Thanks Cristina

Rebecca Balog: Thank you :)

Martha Jean Anderson: thank you

Breckan Erdman: "Always look for the one smiling face" - thank you for that great advice, Ruby!

Ruby White Starr: teachable moment- exactly Rebecca!

Breckan Erdman: Be sure to submit your questions for the presenters here in the public chat – we will do our best to pose them during our time together.

Debbie Ramirez: Ive done presentations with over 350 people and been perfectly okay. I did a presentation for a group of 20 men and it was the most intimidated I had ever felt while sharing my story. They were not very receptive to my story (so I thought) because they didn't show any emotions AT ALL. But after I was done they all asked to hug me. But geesh I was sweating through that session. lol

Rebecca Balog: Thank you for your bravery! What a GREAT and inspiring share. <3 !

Breckan Erdman: Thank you so much for sharing this Debbie, and thank you for sharing your story!

Ruby White Starr: Such an important point Debbie. We shouldn't draw assumptions about how people receive our stories either. They can surprise us.

Debbie Ramirez: Yes Ruby, that is true.

Cristina Aguayo Romero: This was so informative as person who attends many presentations. Thank you to all the presenters, for sharing your stories and challenges.

Debbie Ramirez: I do have a question about when being questioned about your story. I have never been questioned by an audience but questioned or even doubted by family members. How would you handle that? I was so torn and didn't know what to do besides get angry.

Breckan Erdman: We're so glad you joined us for the webinar today, Cristina!

Breckan Erdman: Great question, Debbie! The presenters will address that. It can be so tough to know how to handle situations like that.

Olga Trujillo: I make it a point to sit and listen to folks who have been triggered

Olga Trujillo: I feel like I owe it to them

Jimmy: me to Olga. They are trusting us and that's huge

Breckan Erdman: Thank you so much for this valuable advice!

Olga Trujillo: But I let them know I can't listen to the details if they need to talk about it

Olga Trujillo: I do recognize that I have super powers

Breckan Erdman: What are some of the ways you take care of yourself after telling your story?

Casey Keene: you do indeed have super powers, Olga! :)

Olga Trujillo: That's an awesome story Ruby!!

Debbie Ramirez: This family member wasn't there. He is going based on what the media put out which is not true. I think that is what the hardest part was.

Debbie Ramirez: My sister and I were the only ones there besides my parents.

Olga Trujillo: Yes, Debbie, and sometimes people need to believe something did or didn't happen

Olga Trujillo: It serves where they are now

Debbie Ramirez: good point Olga.

Breckan Erdman: Yes. Thank you, Olga

Debbie Ramirez: Thank you for pointing that out Ruby. That does help me and I will have to remind myself about that.

Breckan Erdman: "My role is only to tell my story" - thank you so much for these powerful words, Ruby.

Breckan Erdman: The webinar recording and slides will be available on VAWnet.org: <https://vawnet.org/material/ace-dv-speakers-initiative-series-navigating-challenges-storytelling-audiences>

Breckan Erdman: And please be sure to fill out a feedback survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XCSCXFH>

Breckan Erdman: Thank you so much for joining us today!

Charmaine Rimple: Very informative webinar, now, I must consider how I will verbalize my gift of my story.

Breckan Erdman: Yes, Charmaine, your story is a gift to whoever you choose to share it with!

Breckan Erdman: More about ACE-DV: <https://www.nrcdv.org/key-initiatives/ace-dv/>

Debbie Ramirez: thank you all

Nia Key: ty

Carolyn Curtis: Thank you!