

# Story Power with David Roche

## STORY POWER VISION—WHY WE DO THIS

More than 20 years of teaching personal storytelling has taught us that everybody has a story worth telling. We all have important truths, based on our lived experience, to bring into the world and share with others, whether to friends and family or audiences.

Sometimes our voices have been stilled, or are small or hidden. We may have had silence imposed upon us through ridicule or abuse. We may have voluntarily silenced ourselves, perhaps believing that no one would be interested. We might judge ourselves as inarticulate. Or we may be simply too busy to listen to our own inner voices. Society sends messages that our stories do not matter,

“Children should be seen and not heard.” And prejudice based on race, gender, age, disability or sexual preference has a chilling effect on our sense of worthiness to be heard. But the soul is never stilled.

We are committed to creating an environment where the stories waiting inside can come forth. The basis of this work is respect for other human beings and what they have to offer, and this respect has never once been off the mark.

People may think that to be powerful a story needs to reveal our deep, dark secrets or relate some spectacular event. But we have discovered that story power also resides in sharing the simple experiences of life. These stories may even seem ordinary and obvious, yet they remind us of the truths we all already know. Each person’s story brings wisdom and resonates with listeners in a unique, yet universal way.

Participants come to our classes and workshops with all levels and varieties of storytelling experience and public speaking skills. Some are terrified. Others are professional presenters. It makes no difference. Storytelling in its initial stages is not about performing. The primary task is to share our learned wisdom and truth, openly and honestly.

Our goal is that each participant leaves the workshop deeply stirred, not only by his or her own storytelling experience, but also by the stories of others, feeling connected by a strengthened understanding and respect for what it means to be human. They will also leave with improved skill and comfort speaking in public, more in touch with their true message (content) and infused with passion and confidence (technique).

From this experience some are called to the stage or podium. We are committed to developing the skills to answer this call in an authentic way. Others will tell their story to those in their daily lives. All will leave with a commitment to telling their own truth.