

Lawyers, Clients & Narrative

*A Framework for Law Students
and Practitioners*



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OVERVIEW OF SESSION

- What have we just heard?
- What are we looking for now?
- How does what I'm about to talk about help
 - Center us on shared goals and vocabulary.
 - Engage in narrative exercises

GOALS FOR TEACHING NARRATIVE

- Narrative helps gather, categorize, analyze, and convey facts.
- Narrative helps to persuade.
- Narrative improves client-centered lawyering.

Components of Narrative

Characters (including traits)

Events (including setting and timeline)

Causation (a.k.a. cause & effect)

Normalization (a.k.a. consistency)

Masterplot (a.k.a. “stock story”)

Closure (a.k.a. problem and resolution)



EXERCISE: INTENTIONALLY LISTEN TO STORY FOR NARRATIVE ELEMENTS

Characters (including Traits)	Last names	A - D
Events (including setting and timeline)	Last names	E - H
Causation(a.k.a. cause & effect)	Last names	I - L
Normalization (a.k.a. consistency)	Last names	M - P
Masterplot (a.k.a. “stock story”)	Last names	Q - U
Closure (a.k.a. resolution)	Last names	V - Z

EXERCISE: UNDERSTAND INTENTIONAL CHOICES IN NARRATIVE CONSTRUCTION

- Characters (including traits)
- Events (including setting and timeline)
- Causation (a.k.a. cause & effect)
- Normalization (a.k.a. consistency)
- Masterplot (a.k.a. “stock story”)
- Closure (a.k.a. resolution)

EXERCISE: INTERVIEWING USING NARRATIVE ELEMENTS

Step One: Prepare to interview one of the people identified in the clip:

Jeronimo Yanez (the police officer) or
Diamond Reynolds (Mr. Castile's girlfriend) or
Valerie Castile (Mr. Castile's mother).

Step Two: identify the subject matter for the interview.

Step Two: Identify topic areas to explore in interview of the person.

INTERVIEWING EXERCISE (CONT.)

Step Four: Recall your assigned narrative element. Add to your interview list of topics based on that element.

INTERVIEWING EXERCISE (CONT.)

What did you learn by creating an interview plan including narrative elements in this way?

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