

LSPA 25th Anniversary STORY SLAM



What is a Story Slam?

Simply put, story slam is a competition based on the art of storytelling. It puts a dual emphasis on content and performance, encouraging storytellers to focus on what they're saying and how they're saying it. It is an exercise in crafting stories within a set time limit and it's great entertainment.

The LSPA STORY SLAM will be a friendly, fun but also competitive event in which storytellers perform their work and are judged by a select panel. The LSPA Board of Directors will select the judges, who are instructed to give numerical scores (on a 1 to 10 scale) based on the storyteller's content and performance. Winners are selected based on the judges' scores. In addition, an Audience Choice award will be determined by audience vote.

What are the rules? The basic rules are:

- Each story must be of the storyteller's own construction. The audience and the judges are expecting real life adventures.
- Poetry is allowed only if the poem is original, five minutes long and *tells a story*.
- The storyteller may not use props (including a written page) or musical instruments.

How long do I have?

- Each storyteller gets five minutes (plus a 30 second grace period) to tell a story. If the storyteller goes over the 5 1/2 minute time, one full point will be deducted from the total score.
- Each of the featured 5-minute stories are judged on how well the story is told, how well it is constructed and how well the story explores, connects and/or reveals the truth about the theme and, how well it honors the time limit.

What can the audience do?

Listen, laugh, applaud & weep. No interrupting. No heckling.

Here are some Storytelling Tips.

Real stories have a beginning, middle and end. And they have a point. You are clear about why the story is important to you and why you want to tell it.

Presentation

Your story presentation is important. It tells us why and how we should listen to you. Your voice and body are instruments of your art. You use voice, gesture and movement to the best of your ability in the service of your story.

Theme

Your story, not just the title or "punch line", needs to connect in a meaningful way to the theme. The theme is wide open and helps you focus at the same time.

Practice

You have to practice. One tip is memorizing the beginning and the ending words of your story by heart. It helps with confidence and focus. Practicing - before a mirror, into a recorder, in the car when alone, in your head before you go to sleep or before you get out of bed - all help. Do at least some of these MANY times. You'll be glad you did.

Funny, Sad, Genuine?

Funny is good, sad is real but all must be genuinely in service to the story. That is what makes yours a story worth listening to and sets it apart from rants, stand up and what you tell your therapist or best friend.

*This text is adapted from [Massmouth](#).