First Give

Student Story Competition

Your story, your way





Hello!

This is a guide to help you tell your First Give story, your way.

You don't have to use it, but you may find it helpful to take ideas and inspiration from the resources here to get you started.

We're grateful that you're planning to share your story with us, and we hope that you have fun telling it, too!

Good luck!

If you have any questions, or you are ready to send us your entry, please contact:

youthvoice@firstgive.co.uk

Your Storytelling Style Quiz

There are endless ways to tell a story. This quiz is designed to be a fun way for you to figure out what your style might be. **Where will your story take you?**

Start here

How do you express your thoughts and ideas best?

- Talking about it → **Do you enjoy performing or speaking to large groups?**
- Writing it down → **Would you describe yourself as the creative type? Maybe you like to draw or doodle things?**

Do you enjoy performing or speaking to large groups?

- Yes → **If something exciting happens to you, what do you do?**
- Not really → **Would you describe yourself as the creative type? Maybe you like to draw or doodle things?**

Would you describe yourself as the creative type? Maybe you like to draw or doodle things?

- Yes → **I'd like to create a picture that tells a powerful story**
- Not really → **If something exciting happens to you, what do you do?**

I'd like to create a picture that tells a powerful story

- Yes → **You might be an... Illustrator**
  You could create a comic, a graphic story, an illustrated journal, or even a scrapbook.
- No → **You might be a... Writer**
  You could create an article, a series of diary entries, a letter, a poem, or magazine.

If something exciting happens to you, what do you do?

- Share it later → **You might be a... Writer**
  You could create an article, a series of diary entries, a letter, a poem, or magazine.
- Share it now → **Would you rather bring your story to life by performing it?**

Would you rather bring your story to life by performing it?

- In person → **You might be a... Performer**
  You could create a podcast, record an interview, a speech, a spoken word piece, or an audio diary.
- Digitally → **You might be a... Content Creator**
  You could create a video diary, short film or documentary, a podcast, or a narrated photo journey.

FirstGive

Creativity Lab

Every First Give journey is different. Great stories are about growth, what we learned along the way, perhaps challenges faced, helping others or simply making a difference.

Sometimes, it's one memorable moment tells the best story. Use the prompts below to help spark an idea!

Writer...

Think about your reader. What do you want them to feel? **Try:**

- An opening line that drops the reader straight into a moment: *I took a deep breath, and...*
- Descriptive details that make your story feel real, such as thoughts and feelings
- A moment of reflection that shows how you changed: *I knew this was going to be something special when...*

Performer...

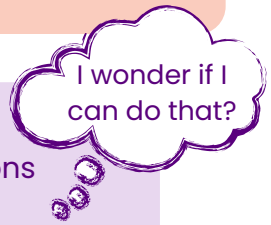
Think about your voice. What tone do you want: reflective, energetic, emotional? **Try:**

- A strong opening line that hooks your listener: *I was bubbling up with excitement like a...*
- An interview with someone from your journey: *I'm here with my form tutor, Miss Jones...*
- Pauses and pace to add drama: *You won't believe what happened next!*

Illustrator...

Think about what a camera would have seen. What were the expressions on people's faces? **Try:**

- Speech and thought bubbles can bring your story to life in creative ways
- A timeline of key moments shown as panels
- Before and after illustrations to show change



Content Creator...

Think about what your viewer will see. Which images tell your story better than words? **Try:**

- A before and after moment to show your journey: *When First Give began, I was quiet and shy. Now, I...*
- Interviews with teammates, teachers or charity representatives
- A voiceover for your footage: *Look at those smiling faces! That's us running our social action activities...*

Struggling?

Here are some ideas to get you started.

Did someone really inspire you on your journey?
Why not interview them about it?

Got a moment that made you proud?
What about an inspiring speech?

Had a challenge that you overcame?
What about a series of diary entries to share the journey?

Did you learn a new skill?
What about creating a how-to video to help someone else learn from your story?

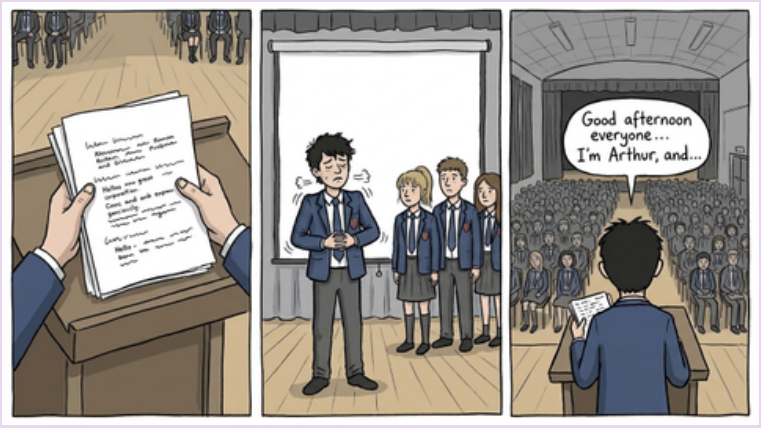
Loved seeing the difference your actions can make?
Why not share it through a photo journal?

Anything else that you can think of?

One story, endless possibilities

This page shows how one moment could be shared as part of your story. Here are just four ways to capture it! **How would you tell it?**

In the style of a **Comic...**



In the style of an **Article...**

THE SCHOOL TIMES

Student Edition | Stories from First Give | Autumn Edition

FINDING MY VOICE

'I'm going to tell you about the day my group presented at the First Give Final.

When our name was called, I walked to the front of the h- all with my notes in my hands. They were shaking so much I could barely read them. My stomach was was doing somersaults, and for a moment I thought Iwould freeze. Then I took a deep breath, and I began.

My voice wobbled at first, but as I kept going, I could see people listening. A few of thet firss time, cwer or sneutd niup A few of them even smiled. – smiled.

By the middle of our presentation, I had stopped presentation, I had stopped thinking about my it thinking about our charity and why it mattered to us.

YOUR IMAGE HERE

had stopped about my hands started thinking about our charity and why it mattered to us.

When we finished, the whole hall clapped. I couldn't believe I had done it.

Looking back, it was one of the scariest things I have ever done, and one of the things I

Sometimes the hardest part is simply starting.

In the style of a **Podcast...**

PODCAST SCRIPT

MY FIRST GIVE FINAL



Episode 1

'Hi everyone, and welcome to the show. Today I'm going to tell you about the time my group had to present at the First Give Final.

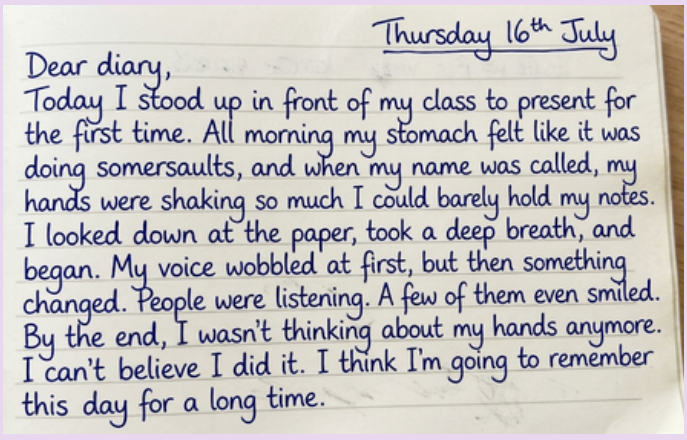
I was so nervous. My hands were shaking, and I could barely hold my notes.

But I took one deep breath, and I began.

My voice wobbled at first, but as I kept going, I could see people listening. By the end, I couldn't believe I had done it.

Looking back, it's one of the things I'm proudest of. Thanks for listening.'

In the style of a **Diary entry...**



Thursday 16th July

Dear diary,
Today I stood up in front of my class to present for the first time. All morning my stomach felt like it was doing somersaults, and when my name was called, my hands were shaking so much I could barely hold my notes. I looked down at the paper, took a deep breath, and began. My voice wobbled at first, but then something changed. People were listening. A few of them even smiled. By the end, I wasn't thinking about my hands anymore. I can't believe I did it. I think I'm going to remember this day for a long time.

Story treasure hunt

Every journey has treasure to be found. Think back to your First Give journey and tick any moments, feelings or achievements that were part of your experience. Then pick one that stands out and take it to the next page to think about who it reached.

Challenges & Growth

- [ ] I stepped outside my comfort zone
- [ ] I overcame a challenge
- [ ] Something didn't go to plan
- [ ] I learned from a mistake
- [ ] I became more confident
- [ ] I changed my mind about something

Teamwork & Leadership

- [ ] I worked as part of a team
- [ ] I helped solve a problem
- [ ] I took on responsibility
- [ ] I supported someone else
- [ ] Someone inspired me
- [ ] I learned from others

Making a Difference

- [ ] I raised awareness
- [ ] I helped my charity
- [ ] I learned about an issue impacting my community
- [ ] I saw the impact of our actions
- [ ] I felt proud of what we achieved
- [ ] I made a positive difference

Reflection

- [ ] My thinking has changed since we started (such as about a social issue)
- [ ] Something surprised me
- [ ] Something was harder than I expected
- [ ] I learned something new about myself
- [ ] I felt proud of something I/we did

I think I want to talk about...

Small Changes, Big Impact

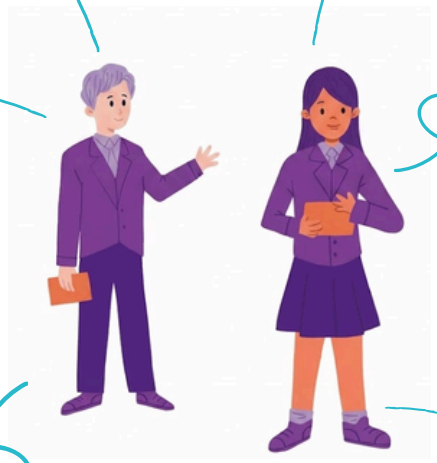
Impact is the result of something. Through First Give, it **could** be about how a person or event changes how someone thinks, feels or acts. It doesn't have to be huge. Whether you give your time, money or skills, a small change, like one conversation, can have a big impact. Your story should share impact in one way or another. Let's explore that now. Below, we've offered some examples of impact that would make a great story. What impact did you have?

Who did we reach?

I spoke about my charity with students in other year groups, and my friends and family at home.

Did anyone learn something new?

A friend told me she had never heard of our charity before. Once we explained what it does, she said she understood why it mattered.



Did I discover anything new about myself?

I became more confident about talking to others and speaking in front of an audience.

Did a conversation spark a change?

After I talked to my family about our First Give project, they decided to donate to our charity and shared some charity information on social media to help raise awareness.

How did we help our charity?

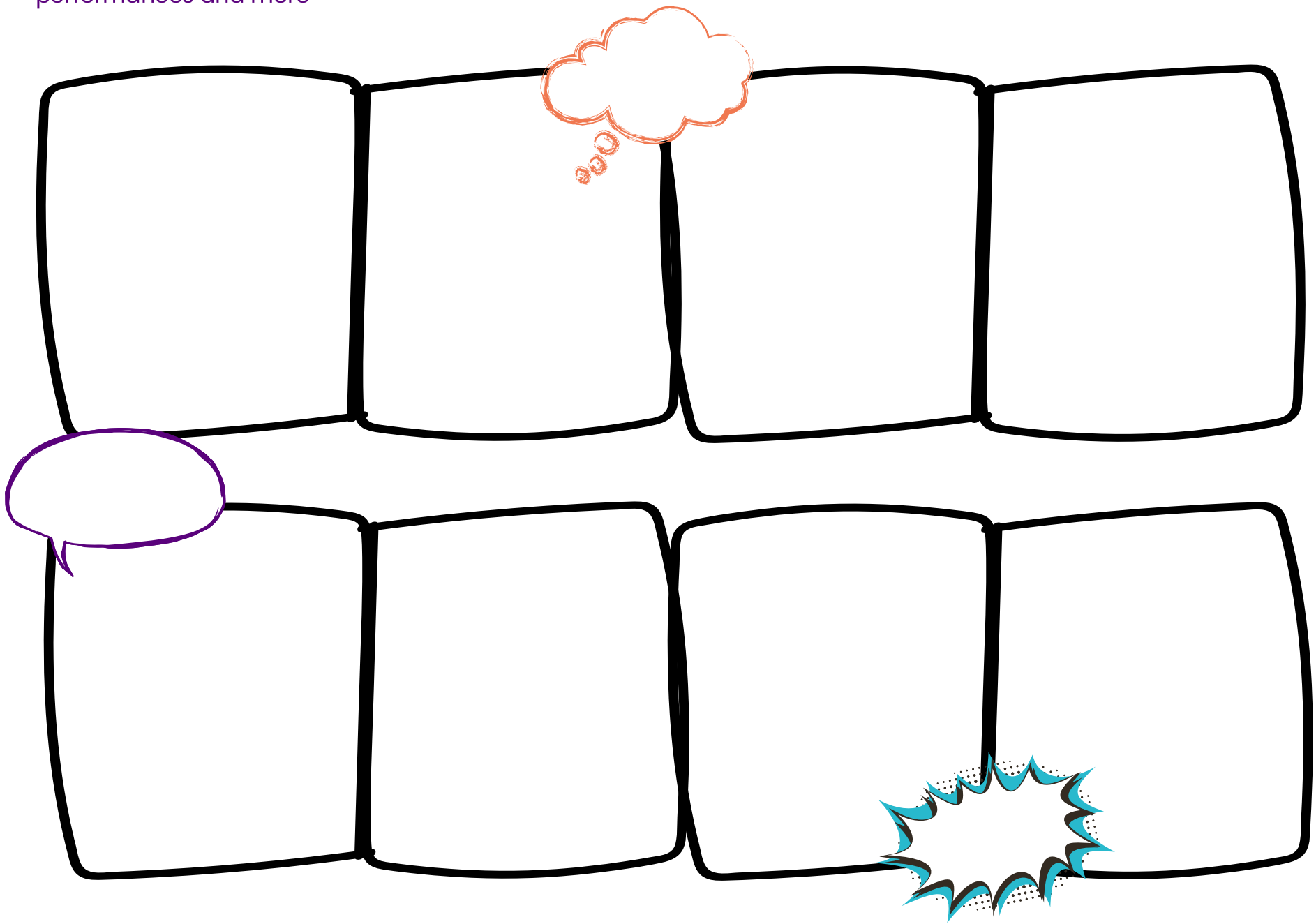
We gave our time to raise awareness by hosting an assembly for a different year group, and we also spent time volunteering at our local charities branch.

What could carry on afterwards?

We wanted to keep supporting our charity, so we decided to do a sponsored walk to support our charity in the summer.

Visual storyboard planner

This page is useful for planning: comics, photo journals, magazines, zines, videos, podcasts, performances and more



Written storyboard planner

This is good for planning: stories, speeches, scripts, podcasts, videos and more

What happened?

Why am I sharing this story?

This matters because...

Audience

Who am I writing this for?

What changed?

Moves the story along

This could be the outcome of your surprise/challenge. Consider if your opinion changed, skills, relationships?

Beginning

Who/What/Where/When

This is your chance to set the scene...

Middle

How/Why

Feelings...
Motivations...
Surprise/Challenge what was tricky or unexpected?

End

What was the outcome?

Anything else?

Is there anything you wanted to share that you haven't yet? Make a note of anyone you need to speak to.

Sharing a story that includes other peoples' experiences? Make sure you have their permission!

Developing your story

Having one or two key messages that you want to communicate through your story will help you stay focused and engage your audience. **Key messages might be...**

My key messages are...

- My voice matters because...
- The biggest thing I learned is...
- I want people to remember that...
- Something people might not know is...

Example: I hope people reading my story can see how much my confidence has grown through First Give. I'll show them this by making sure I...

A good story makes us feel something. Think about how you want your audience to **feel** as they read/listen to your story. How might you achieve that?



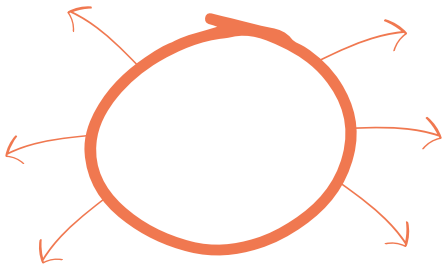
Your story might be...

- Eye-opening
- Personal
- Uplifting
- Inspiring
- Exciting
- Surprising

Example: I want my story to be **inspiring** Helping others to understand they can make a difference, because if I can do it, they can too. **I'll make that clear by** adding some top tips for supporting charities.

Is there anything else that might help you develop your story?





Find Your Voice

Making a podcast, video diary, interview or other recorded piece? Here's how to turn your story into something people can watch or hear.

Questions and Themes

Whether you are recording yourself solo, or interviewing someone else, good questions help you to tell a good story.

Open-ended question ideas:

- What do you remember about...
- What is one word that you'd use to describe...
- Can you tell me...
- How did you/your team...
- What was the biggest challenge...
- What was your favourite part...
- If you did it all again...

A suggested structure to your questions/conversation:

- Start with warm up questions to set the scene: who/what/where/when...
- Gain deeper understanding and build a picture for your listener, e.g. *what was that like?*
- Look for impact, e.g. *what changed? Do you think differently now?*
- Reflection and learning, e.g. *what did you gain/learn? Any advice for others?*
- Wrap up - summarise key messages in a powerful conclusion. It's also nice to end with thanking your interviewee and your listeners.

Word bank support



Recording your work?

Plan it first with a storyboard. Use pages 7 & 8 to help you.

A script or notecards are also great devices to keep you focused.

Top Tips

Recording your story?

- Find a quiet space with as little background noise as possible.
- Check the lighting, make sure we can see you clearly.
- Use a phone stand to keep your camera still.
- Speak clearly and at a natural pace. Not too slow or fast!
- Record a short practice version first.
- Don't worry about being perfect. Authentic stories are powerful!

Interviewing someone?

- Make sure you have consent from your interviewee before you start!
- Read your questions aloud to yourself or someone else to make sure they sound natural and are easy to understand.