

#6 CONTAINMENT TOOL

WHAT IS THIS TOOL?

This tool is a part of using several other tools because it clarifies and directs the storytelling experience for both the teller and the listener. It is essentially the agreed-upon rules of the exchange.

WHAT IS THE ROLE IN RESTORATIVE STORYTELLING?

Restorative Storytelling is intended to serve the listener by offering a transformative experience. Since it is so powerful, it needs to be formal and clear before the transformation begins.

HOW DOES THE TOOL WORK?

Before the transformative power of Restorative Storytelling begins, it is the responsibility of the storyteller to contain the experience by setting a clear intention and getting permission from the listener if appropriate. Then the "rules" of the story need to be established, like making sure the content is appropriate for the listener, agreeing on the location of the storytelling, and having the same understanding of timing and duration. A magical story can be compromised if it goes too long or includes the wrong content, or people show up at the wrong time with expectations.

HERE ARE THE PARTS OF THE TOOL IN BRIEF:

WHY YOU ARE TELLING THIS STORY?

Having a clear intention holds the storytelling experience so the storyteller can be creative.

WHO WILL HEAR THIS STORY?

Restorative storytelling is used to serve the listener, so the storyteller must be clear who that is.

WHERE AND WHEN AND HOW LONG?

These details affect the storytelling experience for everyone, especially the length.

EVERYONE FEELS SAFE.

If everyone can trust that the storyteller is clear and will meet structural expectations, they can relax.

ELEMENTS OF THE CONTAINER

WHY TELL THE STORY?

- How will this story benefit your intended listener?
- How will this story benefit you?
- How could this story benefit a larger community?

WHO WILL BE A PART OF THE STORY EXPERIENCE?

- Who is your intended listener?
- Who is in the room?
- Who is telling the story? Just you? Taking suggestions?
- If this is a conversation or collaborative story, who is included?
- Will there be questions? Announcers? Moderators?

WHERE, WHEN AND HOW LONG?

- Make sure everyone agrees on the location. How does the location affect the story?
- When will the story begin and how will everyone know?
- Is everyone clear on how long this storytelling will take?
- Be clear if there will be more after the story.

EVERYONE FEELS SAFE

- There are so many variables within a storytelling experience, so the listeners feel relaxed when they know it is contained.
- The storyteller can relax in the clarity of the expectations.