

Narrative in online relationship development

Draft report: Yahoo! Messenger meeting 11-12 December 2005

Singapore: 2.00pm - Monday 12th
South Australia: 4.30pm - Monday 12th
NSW and ACT, Australia: 5.00pm - Monday 12th
NZ: 7.00pm - Monday 12th
Chandler: 11.00pm - Monday 12th
Huston and Chicago: 12.00am - Sunday 11th
Eastern US: 1.00am - Sunday 11th
London: 6.00am - Sunday 11th
Groningen, The Netherlands: 7.00am - Sunday 11th

Proposed Agenda

Short welcome
A round where everyone can check-in
Discussion on the group culture
Discuss and tell our stories
Share our experiences
Plan for further action
Completion

Present

Steve Colman (Canberra), Mark Spain (Canberra), Stephen Thorpe (New Zealand)

Apologies

Kathleen Curran, Eva Martony, Penny Pullan, Nancy Settle-Murphy, Hamish Brown, Jon Jenkins

Transcript

We discussed the confused dates in setting up the meeting.
A suggestion was made to shift from messenger to Skype and we then moved our meeting to Skype.
We discussed the systems that Mark and Steve use for video, audio and text in their Global Learning organisation.
An update of what was covered at the Freeconference and messenger meetings was given.
We talked about some of the things happening in the media – these conversations were sparked from the stories in the messenger meeting.
We then discussed the culture and group norms that have been generated by the group.
We talked about how to discuss feelings of frustration in working online.
A suggestion was made to summarise the threads of ideas coming together. We also discussed a task focus and having one spot where different threads could be kept in a structured way.
We discussed the group's different time-frames and how we can go about making our group decisions online. Some would work quite well asynchronously; others could be done in small groups like this one.
Mark and Steve offered their website to the group that would include a bulletin board, forum, chat and place for storing our group files. We decided to create a spontaneous Skype meeting to explore the Global Learning website and to invite others along, should they be interested in exploring the system with us.

We chose to have it at 3.30pm Canberra time:

Singapore: 12.30pm - Tuesday 13th
South Australia: 3.00pm - Tuesday 13th
NSW and ACT, Australia: 3.30pm - Tuesday 13th
NZ: 5.30pm - Tuesday 13th
Chandler: 9.30pm – Monday 12th
Huston and Chicago: 10.30pm – Monday 12th
Eastern US: 11.30pm - Monday 12th
London: 4.30am - Tuesday 13th
Groningen, The Netherlands: 5.30am - Tuesday 13th

We then discussed the conversation about facilitation and training and Jon Jenkins discussion document about facilitation, training and consulting. Also the discussion on the different perspectives on what facilitation is and how it is perceived.

We then discussed what sort of stories would be useful to tell - about having a very tight scope vs having it more open. We discussed a range that would engage our audience from delivering babies, to facilitating groups and leadership stories.

The 3-stage post-story process of the storyteller interviewing the audience, then the audience interviewing the storyteller and then the audience sharing their stories of similar experiences was put forward.

We identified that we were discussing “what’s a valid story” so that everyone could feel comfortable in bringing it forward into the wider group.

An introduction might be “What’s a hot issue, or a burning issue, for you right now in your work and life?”

By sharing it, and hearing it, would bring validity to other peoples’ experience. We thought they don’t necessarily have to be extra-ordinary stories or even that much about storytelling, but the question may help people articulate their authentic selves and the issues their facing. And it would have a rich reward for everybody.

Personal best and personal worst leadership stories were suggested as a good frame up.

Safety was seen in our group norms for discussing our challenging facilitator stories.

Mark told a story about an experience leading a conference session and reacting defensively to a question from the audience. Steve then told a story about facilitating a group which included a challenging person for him.

We discussed the benefit of debriefing after facilitating and getting the learning from situations.

We then identified that we were running out of time and decided to continue our conversation at our meeting on Tuesday 13th – Monday 12th and concluded the meeting.

Action points

Stephen to invite others to Global Learning website tour on Skype at 3.30pm Canberra time

Mark and Steve to get the site ready and give a tour