

Key Presentation Points

Tone

A positive tone invites the audience to listen. Negativity can cause the audience to disregard your message. Avoid blaming individuals or groups, such as “the doctors...”, “the teachers...” etc. Even challenging situations can be explained using a positive tone.

Examples:

- There were challenges when Beth was born. When we were told, “There is no chance Beth will ever walk,” we chose not to believe what we were hearing.
- When we didn’t get the support we needed, we just kept looking until we found it from someone else.

Clarity

Be clear and concise when telling your story. It holds the attention of the audience, and it helps you focus on the important points you want to share.

Audio Visuals

Use audiovisuals, such as photos, overheads, PowerPoint, scrapbook pages, video clips, etc. to enhance your presentation. These help the audience remember what they have learned about your family story.

Prepare

In order to be prepared to share your story with any audience, practice giving it in front of a mirror, or practice giving it to a friend or family member. The more you practice, the more comfortable and confident you will feel. It’s a gift you can give yourself. Practice, Practice, Practice!