

Our American Liberty Stories: Storytelling Worksheet

A document to assist participants who want to write a narrative story. You can also submit a poem, haiku, voice memo or other storytelling device of your choice. More info at www.viennava.gov/story.



Project Details:

- **Is there a part of your family's story that family members tell over and over again that is connected to your country, citizenship or what it means to be American or live in America? We want to hear from you!**
- **The Liberty Amendments Month Planning Committee is seeking stories of individuals and families** who were native to this country or who journeyed here, whether willingly or not, and how they came to enjoy the rights as Americans guaranteed by the Liberty Amendments. Your American liberty story can include where you came from and how you or your family got here, and/or how your American journey fits into the move from an imperfect republic towards our more perfect union. We would like to hear about triumphs, struggles, failures and successes. And we are especially interested in how Vienna relates to your stories.
- **Details and Guidelines: Submit your stories between May 1 and June 5.** Open to participants of all ages, participants under 18 must have parental consent. Stories can be told as a haiku, poem, narrative or even recorded as a voice memo*. Submit stories with up to five photos representing your story (this could be photos from your journey, the day you became a naturalized citizen, an individual portrait or headshot, or family photos.) Submissions may be submitted anonymously and without photos as well. Submissions should be no more than 1000 words. **Consider focusing on one important incident or achievement in your story to fit in the word limit.** In Submissions received after June 5 may be shared on the website or as a part of next year's event.
- **How will your story be shared?** Some stories will be displayed in local businesses, the Vienna Community Center, the Freeman Store and Museum, and at Liberty Amendments Month events. All stories will be displayed on the Town of Vienna and Historic Vienna, Inc. websites. A printed book of stories will be available at Town Hall, Vienna Community Center, the Freeman Store and Museum and the Patrick Henry Library.

Scroll down for a worksheet and prompts to help get you started on your American Liberty Story.

Questions? Contact Lily Widman at lily.widman@viennava.gov or 703-255-5738.

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Project Summary and getting started:

What is your American Liberty Story?

- Is there a story that you or your family members tell over and over again?
- Is your family indigenous to this country?
- If not- how did you or your family come to America?
- Did you or your ancestors journey to this country willingly?
- Where does your family originate?

Forming your story- an outline:

- Stories should have a beginning, middle and an end. You may want to choose just one aspect of your story to capture due to the word limit.
 - Write a brief outline of your story with a bullet list of events and summary items you want to include here.
- Questions that may be helpful as you plan:
 - What is the timeline/timeframe of your story (a few weeks, a few months, a hundred years?)
 - Where is your story taking place (list all places)?
 - Who is an important part of your story? What does the reader need to know about these people to understand the story?
 - How does Vienna or the greater Vienna Community fit into your story?

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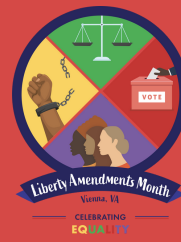
Questions to ask and things to consider as you write?

- What does your American Liberty story mean to you?
- What does your American story mean to your family or the important people in your life?
- What does it mean to you to be an American or to live in America?
- What is your naturalization story (if you have one)? What was that process like.
- Where did you (or your family member or ancestors) come from and why did you/they come to this country?
- What does your family's history of becoming American mean to you today?
 - How does it impact your daily life?
- What do the Liberty Amendments mean to you and your story (13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments)?

A large, empty light blue rectangular area intended for writing the story.

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Edit and Consolidate your story:

- Put your story together in one document.
- Edit your story to be sure that it flows from start to finish. Work on transitions between each part of your story.
- Proof your story for spelling and grammar mistakes.
- Read your story aloud to yourself.
- Ask a friend to proof your story and provide constructive suggestions- is anything confusing or unclear? (Note- if you don't have anyone to proofread please send your story directly to lily.widman@viennava.gov and a member of the committee will help.)

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