



PNI Practicum Level One: An Introduction to PNI

Course Syllabus

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Course Ground Rules

1. Before each meeting, at least skim the course readings (in *Working with Stories Simplified*).
2. During our meetings, please respect everyone's time and attention. Don't dominate the discussion. Give everyone time to speak.
3. Do the course assignments! You will learn about PNI in this course, but only if you actually participate in the PNI project we are doing together. **You will need to find 3+ participants and schedule two meetings (one for story-sharing and one for sensemaking).** The sooner you can get those meetings set up the better.
4. Be respectfully curious about other people's assignment work. Ask useful questions. Don't insult or make fun of people, their work, or their mistakes.

Lesson 1: Introduction and Fundamentals

Pre-meeting readings

Please read chapters 1 ("Introduction"), 2 ("Story Fundamentals"), and 3 ("PNI Fundamentals") of [*Working with Stories Simplified*](#).

Check in: 20 minutes

In the first part of our first meeting, we will introduce ourselves by answering these questions:

1. Where are you, geographically speaking? Where do you live?
2. Why are you here? What brought you to this moment? What interested you in this course?
3. What do you want to get out of this course? What would you like to have at the end of it that you don't have now?

4. How much do you already know about PNI? What about story work in general? Research? Facilitation? Anything else you'd like to mention?

Readings discussion: 45 minutes

We will talk about the week's readings.

Break: 5 minutes

We will take a short break.

Sandbox: 90 minutes

We will go through an exercise on observing and supporting conversational storytelling.

Check out: 20 minutes

We will talk about the week's post-meeting assignments.

Post-meeting assignments: 30+ minutes

1. Observe story sharing in conversation.
2. Add a question to the common question set.

Lesson 2: Story Collection

Pre-meeting readings

Please read chapter 5 ("Story collection") of [*Working with Stories Simplified*](#).

Check in: 20 minutes

We will talk about our observations of conversational story sharing. We will talk about the questions people added to the common question set.

Readings discussion: 45 minutes

We will talk about the week's readings.

Break: 5 minutes

We will take a short break.

Sandbox: 90 minutes

We will go through a story-sharing exercise.

Check out: 20 minutes

We will talk about the week's post-meeting assignments.

Post-meeting assignments: 60+ minutes

Facilitate a story-sharing interview or exercise with **at least 3 people who are not taking the course**. Add the stories and answers you collected to our shared collection.

Lesson 3: Sensemaking

Pre-meeting readings

Please read chapter 7 (“Narrative Sensemaking”) of [*Working with Stories Simplified*](#).

Check in: 20 minutes

We will talk about our experiences in the previous assignments (facilitating a story-sharing interview or exercise, adding stories to the collection). We will review the stories and answers we all collected.

Readings discussion: 45 minutes

We will talk about the week’s readings.

Break: 5 minutes

We will take a short break.

Sandbox: 90 minutes

We will go through a sensemaking exercise.

Check out: 20 minutes

We will talk about the week’s post-meeting assignment.

Post-meeting assignment: 90+ minutes

Facilitate a sensemaking session **with at least two people who are not taking the course**. Record the cluster names that emerge from the exercise.

Lesson 4: Intervention and Return

Pre-meeting readings

Please read chapter 8 (“Intervention and Return”) of [*Working with Stories Simplified*](#).

Check in: 30 minutes

We will talk about our experiences in the previous assignments (facilitating a sensemaking exercise). We will **cluster together the cluster names** that came out of all of our sensemaking exercises. We will give our new meta-clusters names, and we will talk about what we see.

Readings discussion: 35 minutes

We will talk about chapter 8 (“Intervention and Return”) of *Working with Stories Simplified*.

Break: 5 minutes

We will take a short break.

Sandbox: 90 minutes

We will use our clusters of clusters, and our collected stories, to build a set of narrative simulations.

Check out: 20 minutes

We will wrap up the course with a discussion of what we learned.