

DOCUMENTARY

The Story Worth Filming Field Guide

Separate a nice recap from a story with stakes, characters, tension, transformation, and release potential.

For organizations, families, founders, and community leaders deciding whether a story has documentary weight.

CHARACTERS

- Who carries the emotional truth of the story?
- Who changed, risked, built, lost, or endured something?
- Who can speak with specificity rather than slogans?

STAKES

- What is at risk if this story is not preserved?
- Who changes if it is told well?
- What tension makes the audience lean in?

ACCESS

- Can the people, places, archives, and moments be filmed?
- What can be shown instead of narrated?
- What permissions or sensitivities need care?

RELEASE

- Where should the story live: web, event, fundraising, education, archive, or campaign?
- What supporting assets does the film need?
- What action should the audience take after watching?