



# **15 Minute Equity Lessons**

## **The Equity, Disproportionality & Design Project**

## How Can Busy Educators Promote Equity in Their Schools?

Welcome to the 15 Minute Equity Lessons, by the [Equity, Disproportionality & Design Team](#).

Each 15 Min Equity Lesson is a self contained guide for promoting equity in small but meaningful ways.

Use each lesson for your own learning. Or use them in your staff workshops.

These are absolutely free, but we do have one ask: **if this lesson helps you, can you please share our work by inviting a friend to sign up?**



# 15 Minute Lessons

## #1: Lead With a Story

# Stories are data with a soul . . .

Brené Brown



**Make your equity and disproportionality work as personal as possible so it stays connected to the lives of students.**

**Story components: Characters, details, important moments, and a reflection.**

**This will all be in the handout.**

# Mike's Story

## Characters

Mike was a student in middle school.

## Details

Mike didn't want to push his chair in. His teacher asked him multiple times. They both got argumentative. Mike turned a desk over. His teacher sent him to the office and the school suspended Mike.

## Important Moment

Mike met a counselor and teacher in high school that patiently worked with him to create the behavior plan and modifications he needed to progress in school. After he graduated, Mike emailed them to thank them and tell them about how college was going.

## Reflection

We all know a student like Mike. How will we construct our students' school day to help them be successful?

A photograph of a classroom. A male teacher in a plaid shirt stands at the front near a whiteboard. Students are seated at desks, some looking towards the teacher. The room has green walls and educational posters.

**Things turned out well for Mike.**

**EXAMPLE  
STORY SLIDE**

**But at what cost?**

**And could it have happened at his  
neighborhood school?**

4th  
grade

Alt  
Setting

Middle  
School

High  
School

College



## Use Stories to Start the Conversation

### Learning Objective

Participants will learn how to use stories to introduce the topic of equity and disproportionality in schools.

### Evidence

Participants will be able to construct their own story about disproportionality.

Preventing disproportionality in schools requires regular conversations about equity, collaboration, relationships, and systems change. Use this checklist to develop stories about students that you can use during meetings, presentations, and conversations about equity.

Here are two kinds of stories that we use as a way to start the conversation:

- Connect to Students
- Connect to the Educator's Reality

### Checklist: Build Your Story

Your story should have the following elements: characters, details, important moments, and a

# Your Turn

This week, share a story about why equity is important to you with a colleague.

## **Download the Lessons**

[bit.ly/15\\_min\\_dispro\\_lessons](https://bit.ly/15_min_dispro_lessons)

## **Email me for questions or help**

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