



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 blurred background image of a classroom. A male teacher in a plaid shirt stands at the front near a whiteboard. Several students are seated at their 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

Email me for questions or help

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The Equity, Disproportionality & Design Project is operated by the South County SELPA and funded by the California Department of Education.



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