

***The TSU Anthony Graves  
Smart Justice Speaker's  
Bureau  
Curriculum:\****

*Advocacy through Storytelling*

\*Based on The Storytelling Project by Lee Anne Bell, Rosemarie A. Roberts, Kayhan Irani, Brett Murphy, Barnard College

# Curriculum

**This curriculum is designed to cover the 6-weeks TSU Anthony Graves Smart Justice Speakers' Bureau Course in Impactful Story Telling.**

**Videotaped instructors: 20-30 minutes**

**Introduction: Class 1 Starting from the Beginning**

**Instructor: TBD**  
**Facilitator: Dieter Cantu**

In Class One, students are introduced to storytelling. Coverage includes the history and power of storytelling; an overview of the purpose of the class and discussion about what the student should expect to learn from the class as well as what the class expects from the student. Each class will have a student engagement component where the student has a special assignment. We call that assignment, "student activity".

Class discussion will cover best practices for storytelling. One of the most common questions that beginners ask is where do I begin. The simple answer is to start from the beginning.

Student Activities:

1. Each student will be required to give a brief introduction of self and story
2. Each Student will be required to write three pages about their childhood
3. Each Student will then be required to present the story of their before class

**Class 2: Delinquency/Crime Stories**      **Videotaped Instructor: TBD**  
**Facilitator: TBD**

During this class, participants will discuss stories about their delinquent and criminal behavior that placed them before the criminal justice system. They will also discuss consequences of delinquency/crime like displacement from the home environment whether foster care, halfway houses, jail or prison.

Student Activity:

1. Each Student will be required to write four pages about the delinquency/crime that changed their lives and his/her experience with any displacement
2. Each student will be required to read their stories aloud before the class

**Class 3: Coming Home**      **Videotaped Instructor: TBD**  
**Facilitator: TBD**

Student Activity :

1. Each student writes three pages about their or their loved one coming home from displacement/incarceration

2. Each student reads their story aloud

**Class 4: Telling the whole story --videotaped Instructor TBD  
Sarah Guidry--Facilitator**

Class discussion will center around pulling the pieces of the story together to form a cohesive, impactful presentation

Student Activity: Each student tells their whole story in a videographed presentation

**Class 5: Legislative, Judicial, Executive and other Policy makers—Lucinda Daniels  
(instructor and facilitator)**

During this session, students will learn how governing systems work and who needs to hear them in order to make change. Coverage includes the functions of local government (city and county), special districts (ex.: school districts) and state government. Students will gain knowledge about when legislative bodies meet to discuss issues and make laws. They will learn how to use technology to gain access to these meetings, how to locate and identify the elected officials that represent them using the internet/technology, and how to gain access these officials through scheduling meetings, letter writing, etc. There will also be general coverage regarding elections including how and when the elected officials that represent them are elected.

Student Activities: Mock letter writing to legislative bodies  
Other exercises from the “street law” classes

**Class 6: The Art of Public Engagement: Getting before your audiences  
Videotaped Instructor: Noel Pinnock  
Facilitator: TBD**

During this session, students learn how to identify and speak to diverse audiences. What works for some may not work for others. The student will learn how to leave their impression on the audience, whomever it is.

1. Understanding the audience and directly speaking to them
2. Being comfortable in uncomfortable situations

## **Acknowledgments:**

The TSUAGSJSB was the brainchild of Anthony Graves, whose remarkable story of wrongful conviction, solitary confinement and 12-year on Death Row is told in his autobiographical book, *Infinite Hope*. As he waited to be put to death by the State of Texas, he continued his pursuit of justice and learned to advocate for his rights and those of other incarcerated people. When he was finally proved innocent, and as he waited for his release, he imagined the speaker's bureau concept as one that could impact the criminal justice system and the lives of Americans everywhere. The potential impact was enormous as America is branded with the distinction of incarcerating its people at a rate unheard of in civilized society.

Through personal commitment and persistence, Anthony found and partnered with the ACLU-Texas and the Urban Research and Resource Center on the campus of Texas Southern University to make his dream a reality. In 2018, the first class and inaugural contingency of graduates began making their mark.

Coming off of a well-received, successful first effort, the team worked together to create a curriculum and blueprint for replicating the Speakers' Bureau. This document is prepared using the storytelling curriculum model prepared in 2008 by the Storytelling Project of Barnard College. was made possible through generous funding from the Third Millennium Foundation.

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Anthony Graves  
Brass Facts

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