

How can you apply what you learned from Shankar in your engagement with legislators?

Shankar was brilliant. I stand in awe!

Ask questions

Think, "if I was making a fictionalized movie about this issue, what would my opening scene be? Who would the characters be?"

Common ground first, false attribution error.

Start the conversation with what we have in common.

Building a practice of shared purpose.

Thank them for all their hard work first and foremost.

One short powerful story.

Open with a thank you

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Listen to seek understanding.

Tell stories about an individual

Treat legislators like people. They are people too -- not just political figures -- and we all have our differences and similarities that bring us together.

Be nice to people

We all signed up for this for the same reason....focus on making the person you are talking to feel like a hero.

Ask Questions

Create a single message, short and meaningful.

Individual stories and shared purpose. We have more in common than not.

Focus the conversation and start with you have in common.

How can you apply what you learned from Shankar in your engagement with legislators?

Be curious, be generous, show kindness

Telling the story, connecting on common ground.

Get a better understanding of where our legislators are coming from.

Shankar used examples like speeding to show how we need to see both sides of the story. It's so important that we understand the opposing view just as thoroughly as your own view when speaking with your legislators.

Make them feel like heroes!

Focus on one issue, ask questions and share what we already agree with.

Telling stories is as important as we thought!

Remembering to extend empathy and recognize the legislator's focus.

Try to suspend our tendency to rush and listen

How can you apply what you learned from Shankar in your engagement with legislators?

Understanding where other people are coming from and respect their perspectives. Hope that the grace you grant will be reciprocated when you present your point of view to them.

Stating shared purpose first.

Meeting people where they are and focusing on shared values

The power of leading a conversation with questions as a strategy to building a connection.

The concepts of scarcity, reciprocity and telescope in combination are critical foundations to the WHY and POWER of story-telling without oversimplifying or ignoring the challenge of a single story either.

I don't agree that a well crafted story without data is stronger than a well crafted story with data

Asking questions helps us to gain additional information and makes us appear more intelligent.

How I choose to communicate will influence how I will be communicated with in return.

Pick one story and learn what they are passionate about

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Remembering to thank them even if we don't agree

To be real and tell them your story.

Focus on the local story. Center the discussion on their constituencies.

Being mindful of legislators' mind space and address them accordingly

Share with an understanding of their context and in a way that promotes them to listen and respond in kind.

Staying human, and remembering humanity. Assuming that legislators are working for the good for our students. Thank for them that, and craft your message so that it is in language they will hear, not always the way you want to say it.

Remember the honor the context of the person you are speaking with

Our humanity is what we must not lose during complexity... when the challenge is over, we are still on the same TEAM!

Talk to people in our district to find a compelling story about how legislative action has made a difference in our district.

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Telescope - zero in on the single story that captures the priority

Listening to others in the same content as the question posed to me.

Focus on what we have in common

Talk to them about their interests and use a story of one student or teacher while using empathy. Also liked his closing statement about putting your oxygen mask on first.

Surface shared beliefs and interests

Be curious and speak their language.

Pause and ask questions

Find a sense of shared purpose/vision toward the beginning of a meeting.

I've been very frustrated by our local legislators who, in my mind are not pro education. But I've never sought to understand their perspective

How can you apply what you learned from Shankar in your engagement with legislators?

Focus on shared goals.

Focus on just a few topics, don't assume we understand their motives, the magical power of asking questions.

Think of them as humans with human feelings. Look for common interests and ask questions.

Empathetic, productive conversations begin with both parties discussing what they actually care about/agree upon

I will learn about my legislators on a more personal/human level.

Listen to understand

Find the one focused example that epitomizes the larger story.

The relationships formed are important.

Prepare a short, real story that connects with what should be shared goals

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engage by empowering them

Sharing ONE focussed story rather than district stats and generalizations.

Learned you need to stay focused and to tell your story with empathy, kindness, compassion, and generosity.

Identify common ground first and then listen intentionally for more areas of agreement

Context matters. Find what you have in common to move forward.

Start by remembering that all of our legislators are also 2 years into a pandemic and processing their own trauma as well as secondary trauma from constituents.

Realize that we all have needs. Look for how you can support those needs.

I liked the telescope analogy. Really focus on the person you're speaking to - in this case, a legislator, like a "real" person. Make it personal. Speak their language!

One of the first things he talked about, I feel I can talk to legislators better by seeing where they are coming from. The struggles they face and the ways I can use those empathetically to put my point across

How can you apply what you learned from Shankar in your engagement with legislators?

Be prepared to make them heroes

Focus on most important topics and use personal stories to move them to take action.

Despite the dissension in the world today, we must continue to take the high road and model CIVILITY and GRACE, for the sake of our children.

Connect, offer appreciation, but also questions/invitation to engage. Be concise and focused. Share stories, but not too many. Inspire and expose the opportunity to be a hero.

Beginning—acknowledge their work, Middle-share a powerful story, End—make a specific ask and say THANK YOU!

I am gratified that emotional intelligence has become more commonplace.

Be sure of focus in your advocacy. Fewer issues receive greater attention from those you are advocating to.

Always start from a place of shared purpose. Make people feel like the hero's they are. The power of asking questions.

Approach with empathy and ask questions.

How can you apply what you learned from Shankar in your engagement with legislators?

Make people feel like heroes, Seek first to understand. Don't make assumptions about why people act or think. What is our shared purpose.

Loved the reframing of the conflicts to what we share in common!

Centering our human connection and telling a story that can speak to our shared concerns for students and schools that will empower them to prioritize education policy and funding.

I can remember the legislator likely pursued their position because of a desire to help; think of how I can help them.

From the opposite political view of our legislators, to be kind, as it is for our students.

Taking small, personal, focused steps at advocacy

Make a personal connection, recognize commonalities