ETHNODRAMA

Storytelling in your school community

Identify an issue
This may be determined by school administration, by students, or other community members or stakeholders. This issue may emerge through informal conversations, surveys, or a crisis in your school community.

Develop Questions
The research question should be what you want to know most about the issue. The interview questions will prompt your interviewees to respond and tell their stories.

Interview
Work within your community to identify people to interview, explain to them the process (that their stories are part of a larger research project) and conduct interviews using research questions to guide the conversation. You can use a smartphone to record the interviews.

Share
In ethnotheatre, rather than writing a paper and presenting your findings, the presentation comes in the form of performance. Determine what audience will be most responsive to (or most in need of) these stories, and share your research findings. Perhaps a post-performance community dialogue is an integral part of the performance; perhaps it is a written reflection or other activity.

Review & Code
In listening to the interviews, begin to determine the most salient and consistent themes. Don’t be afraid to explore difference or dissonance. Creating a word cloud might be helpful and will help isolate the most compelling stories and experiences.

Stories are personal, and should be treated with extreme care.
Created by Emily Schorr Lesnick, 2017