

Using an Anecdotal Approach vs an Allegorical Approach is Based on Communal Familiarity

An **anecdote is a short story about a real person or event**, usually serving to make the listeners laugh or ponder over a topic. Generally, the anecdote will relate to the subject matter that the group of people is discussing.

An **allegory is a simple story that represents a larger point about society or human nature, whose different characters may represent real-life figures**. Sometimes, situations in the story may echo stories from history or modern-day life, without ever explicitly stating this connection.

Allegorical approaches to storytelling are beneficial to communities that are newly formed. Whether it is school communities, workplace communities etc. an allegorical method can allow participants to convey their positions on certain topics by providing familiar examples of cautionary tales, while not disclosing a great deal of their personal narrative.

Communal trust is built over time and everyone who enters a space does not come in primed to give first-person accounts of experiences they've had, particularly if their experiences relate to trauma. Allegory provides a sense of distance for newly formed communities to 'test the temperature' of the people around them.

Anecdotal approaches to storytelling are of greater benefit to communities seeking to **deepen trust within a group** after the group members have spent time learning about each other on a surface level. A willingness to be vulnerable and honest must be at the forefront when sharing either personal narratives or stories of people we know of, or align with ideologically. The more time people in a community spend with one another, the less likely individuals will have deep concerns of being judged, and are therefore more likely to be open about real-world scenarios they have been impacted by.

Because of the humorous nature of anecdotal storytelling, community members who have gained some degree of familiarity with each other are less likely to feel embarrassed about sharing stories of blunder, and more comfortable with exchanging 'cautionary tales' to help each other avoid the same mistakes.