PNI Practicum Prelude: A Taste of PNI
Syllabus

Before (or as) you start this course

Skim all of the course materials so you have an idea of what you will be doing in each part of the course.

Decide who will facilitate the sandbox sessions that require some preparation time before the session begins. One or two people can facilitate all of these sessions, or you can rotate facilitation, singly or in pairs.

Find a way to create fillable spaces (screens, walls, or tables), share documents (online or on paper), and use sticky notes (real or virtual).

Part 1: Introduction, Fundamentals, Planning

Check-in

There will be no check-in period during the first meeting. Spend the extra time reading together.

Reading: 20+60 minutes

Read and discuss chapters 1 ("Introduction") and 2 ("Story Fundamentals") of *Working with Stories Simplified*. (You can find it at workingwithstories.org.)

Sandbox: 90 minutes

Go through an exercise in observing conversational storytelling. No one needs to facilitate this first sandbox session. You can just go through the exercise together.

Discussion: 10 minutes

Review and discuss the week's outside-of-class activity.

Outside-of-class activity: 30+ minutes

a. Observe story sharing in conversation.
b. Modify the standard course story form by adding your own unique question.

Part 2: Story Collection

Check-in: 20 minutes

Talk about your observations of conversational story sharing. Show the question you intend to add to the story form.

Reading: 60 minutes

Read and discuss chapters 3 ("PNI Fundamentals") and 5 ("Story collection") of *Working with Stories Simplified*.

Sandbox: 90 minutes

Practice facilitating a story-sharing exercise. You will need to choose facilitators for this exercise before this meeting starts, as there is some preparation required.

Discussion: 10 minutes

Review and discuss this week's outside-of-class activity.

Outside-of-class activity: 60+ minutes

    a. Facilitate a story-sharing exercise with at least 3 people who are not taking the course.
    b. Add the stories and answers you collected to a common spreadsheet shared by the entire course cohort.

Part 3: Sensemaking

Check-in: 20 minutes

Talk about your experience facilitating the story-sharing exercise. Show the stories and answers you added to the common document.

Reading: 60 minutes

Read and discuss chapter 7 ("Narrative Sensemaking") of *Working with Stories Simplified*.

Sandbox: 90 minutes

Practice facilitating a sensemaking exercise. You will need to choose facilitators for this exercise before this meeting starts, as there is some preparation required.

Discussion: 10 minutes

Review and discuss this week's outside-of-class activity.

Outside-of-class activity: 90+ minutes

Facilitate a sensemaking session with at least two people who are not taking the course. Record the cluster names that emerge from the exercise.

Part 4: Return

Check-in: 30 minutes

Talk about your experiences facilitating your sensemaking sessions. Then **cluster together the cluster names** that came out of all of your sensemaking sessions. Give your new meta-clusters names. Talk about what you see.

Reading: 30 minutes

Quickly skim and discuss chapter 8 ("Intervention and Return") of *Working with Stories Simplified*.

Sandbox: 90 minutes

Use your clusters of clusters to build a series of simple narrative simulations. You will need to choose facilitators for this exercise before this meeting starts, as there is some preparation required.

Discussion: 30 minutes

Wrap up the course with a discussion of lessons learned.

Outside-of-class activity: 60+ minutes, optional

Someone might want to package up the gathered stories, and maybe some observations written up during your final discussion, for everyone to keep as a record of the course.