

# Building Your Union Story



## Group Exercise

The Values

The Fight

The Call to Action

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## Build Your Story!

Audience:

Emotion:

Values:

Your Story Points:

Put It All Together:



## Build Your Story Example

**Audience:**  
Residents of my community.

**Emotion:**  
Grateful, Outraged.

**Values:** Pride in my work, Speaking up,  
Taking care of my community

### Your Story Points:

- Worked in sanitation for 12 years.
- Work hard because I care about my job.
- Community doesn't work without the job I do – neighborhoods don't work, restaurants cant run.
- I Get to make sure my city is pristine and taken care of.
- Spoken up against discrimination & unfair promotions.
- Fighting against service cuts now.
- Lose good paying jobs and hurt our families
- More trash in our streets, more pests in our communities

### Put It All Together:

I've worked in sanitation for 12 years. I started as a loader on the back of a truck, slinging cans. Now I drive a truck and I'm the shop steward. I get up most days at 4:30 am to start my route so the homes and businesses of our city can start their days, and don't have to worry about sanitation. Without the work we do, our community couldn't run. Our neighborhoods would be filled trash, restaurants would have pests and rodents, businesses couldn't operate.

I became a steward after me and some coworkers noticed our management was discriminating against some of us. Those of us with families who had to take time off now and again to take of them, which we are allowed to do, weren't getting the overtime bids we wanted. Plus, the routes were supposed to be handed out on the basis of seniority and performance, but the manager was making sure folks who needed time to take care of our kids were getting the worst routes.

We fought back together, all of us. We filed a grievance and when they stone walled us, we picketed. We deserve fair treatment and everyone should have to play by the rules.

Now, management and the city council are talking about service cuts to our community. If we make those cuts, there will be more trash on our streets, and more pests in our neighborhoods. Plus, hard working men and women could lose their jobs. Help us stop the cuts in your neighborhood, call your city councilor and tell them NOT to do the service cuts!

**Notes/Extra Space:**