

## Career Ready: Share Your Story

Having a concise, compelling story, often called a Career Story, is essential as you transition from college to the next step on your journey. Think of it as a comprehensive final paper for who you have become throughout your time at Augustana College.

Taking time to craft your story will give you a chance to reflect on the skills you have gained, the experiences you have had, the knowledge you have learned, and the growth you have experienced. It could help you clarify what you really want, even if you haven't figured that out yet. It will also help as you pursue next steps.

### College Timeline Activity: Reflect on your four years

Using the outline below, think back to each year, each semester, or even each month and note down your thoughts based on the prompt on the left. You may copy and paste or simply use your own document.

	First Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
Skills gained				
Skills improved				
Interests pursued				
Successes of note				
Challenges you overcame				
Notable mentors or Influences				
Internships				
Student Employment				
Part-time Jobs				
Research or Creative Scholarship				
Study Away				
Projects				
Leadership Involvement				
Experience that influenced your career path				

### **Part 1: The Origin Story**

Maybe from an early age you had an idea that you were a great educator or salesperson or artist or healer or leader or writer. Perhaps one or more of your experiences from the college timeline activity sparked something that moved you in a particular direction. Think back to a moment or a memory when you thought, “I’m good at this.” And then think about why.

Tell the story of how and why you got to this point.

Find an example [here](#).

### **Part 2: The Rundown**

After sharing how you first became interested in the field, it’s time to talk about your relevant experience. Without simply restating everything on your resume, look back at the significant experiences from your college timeline activity.

Include strengths with the accomplishment or event that allowed you to build or demonstrate that strength. This part of the story is like a set of building blocks, “Event one allowed me to gain skills X, Y, and Z. Then I was able to transition to event two, which gave me chance to put into practice what I learned in course/project/research. Then I…” and so on.

Just like any good story, you need to **start with the end in mind**. What is the narrative you want to tell? What are the defining moments of your path so far? Then pull out the strengths and accomplishments that connect.

Find an example [here](#).

### **Part 3: Connecting the Dots**

Now that you have shared how and why you got to this point and the strengths and accomplishments that have gotten you here, you need some clarity on what’s next. The [Career Goal Activity](#) is helpful in clarifying what’s next.

Once you have a clear, concise Career Goal, you can incorporate it into your story.

How does your **Origin Story** plus your **Rundown** support that you will be successful in your **Career Goal**?

<b>Origin Story + Rundown + Career Goal = Your Story</b>
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Find an example [here](#).

### **Part 4: Practice Telling Your Story**

Share your story with as many people or in as many places that make sense. Does your online presence reflect your story? Start with your LinkedIn Profile then move your way through any other professional platforms you use.

Find an example [here](#).

- In order to receive the total 20 points for the signature activity you will need to bring in your activity to process & reflect with a Career Coach.
- [Schedule an appointment](#) with your [Career Coach](#) to discuss what you have learned
- Points will be awarded by your Career Coach after your appointment