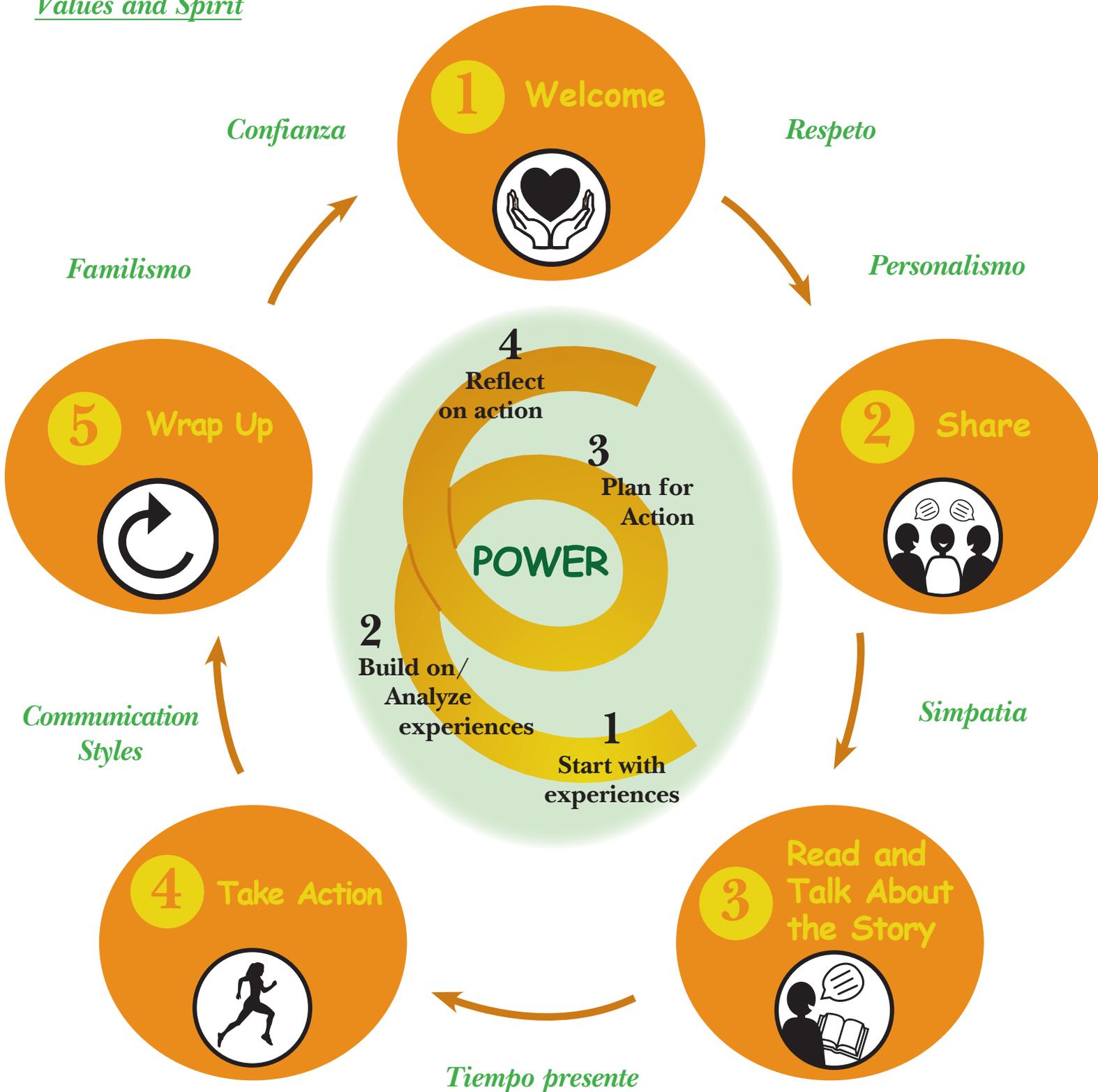


Teach-With-Stories Method™

5 Steps

Values and Spirit



Hispanic/Latino Cultural Context & the Teach-With-Stories Method™

Meaning of cultural values & norms	How values are incorporated in the Teach-with-Stories (TWS) Method:
<p>Respeto – Respect involves deference based on age, sex, social position, position of authority. Respeto in social hierarchy is not about politeness. It is a keen sense of mutual obligation between individuals. That ‘obligation’ is founded on caring- caring for family, for elders, for children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The circle is one way to think of respect. We are all part of the circle of life. Respect is acknowledging our interconnectedness and honoring our place in the circle as a human being, with a unique perspective, with unique a gift(s) to share with the world. • Respect is the foundation of the TWS method. The sessions are held in a circle. The facilitator takes special care at the start of every group to remind members that we are all teachers and learners and every voice is valued. The facilitator ensures that respect is practiced throughout the session. • Respect is the heart of a client-centered approach and relationships based on ‘power-sharing.’
<p>Personalismo – Values personal connections over impersonal/institutional relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TWS method provides opportunities throughout the process for relationships to grow and for understanding and acceptance of oneself and others to deepen. This can happen as group members share their experiences, efforts to make change in their lives, and celebrate their successes.
<p>Simpatia – Kindness and sense of rapport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the group members read and discuss the story and the facilitator poses questions to foster critical thinking and to draw out new connections and meaning in their own lives, it is done in a spirit of kindness and caring. It’s about thinking together (‘and’); not about ‘either/or,’ right or wrong, judgmental thinking.
<p>Tiempo presente – More value is placed on the present rather than the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facilitator keeps the dialog and health messages focused on the group members’ present realities, immediate needs and priorities. The facilitator continually weaves and monitors the relevance of the discussions and proposed actions with the everyday lives of group members.
<p>Orales – Verbal Communication: emotionally expressive; nonconfrontational; negative feelings may not be expressed; hesitant to disclose personal /family info to a stranger</p> <p>No-orales – Nonverbal Communication: Touch people with whom they are talking; sit and stand closer than Anglos; shake hands; engage in an introductory embrace, kissing on cheek, back slapping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facilitator is aware of her/his own verbal and nonverbal communication styles/preferences and how these may differ from the group members. • The TWS Method, through the use of stories and the ‘Spiral Model’ of facilitation, is by design non- confrontational. The facilitator helps ensure that proposed ‘actions’ are sensitive to these norms. • The process automatically allows group members to disclose only the amount of personal information they feel comfortable with. Even if group members do not feel comfortable disclosing any personal information, a productive dialog and learning can still occur by discussing sensitive issues and key health messages through the characters in the story. • The circle format of chairs allows for expressive movement and closer physical contact between group members than a traditional classroom set up.
<p>Familismo – Family is strongest, most valued institution, includes extended network of blood relatives, in-laws, close friends</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TWS facilitator welcomes and invites inclusion of family members in the learning process whenever possible. This includes bringing to the session friends and relatives who may be a support for the pregnant mother; asking about the impact/feelings of family members during the dialog process; involving family in ‘home action’ activities; sharing the information and lessons learned with others in their community.
<p>Confianza – Trust that requires a long time to develop and is based on relationships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By following the six steps in the TWS method each session, trust is built among the facilitators and group members. The bonds that develop often extend outside of the sessions and last after the sessions are over.