

jot down some potential “talking points” for staff to refer to at a library festival.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

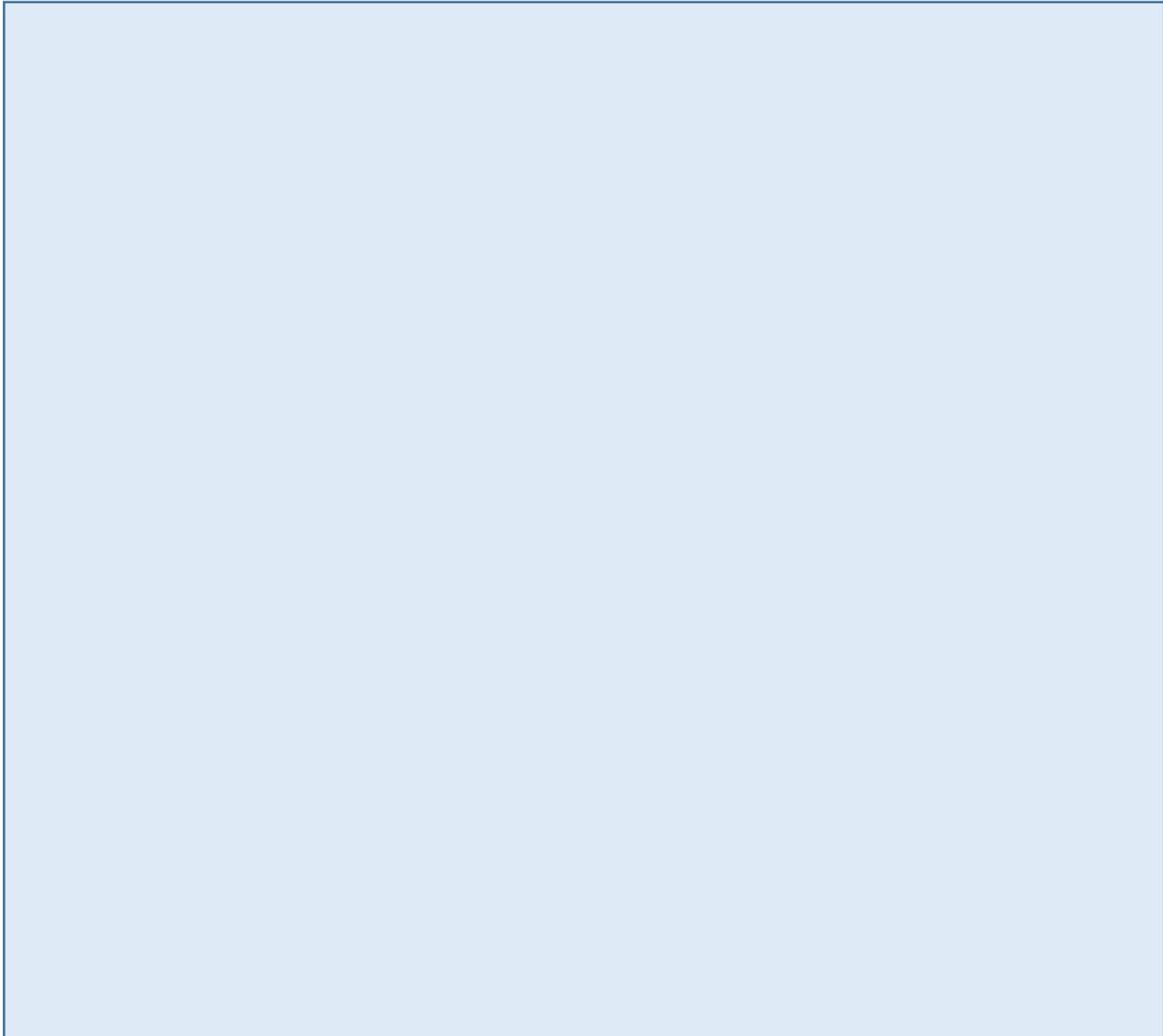
Write a two-sentence version of a library “success story” that you witnessed or participated in directly.

Write out your favorite library success story, the one that makes you smile when you remember it. You do not have to have witnessed it directly, but it should be something that happened at your library in the last five years. Use the back of this page if you need to write a longer anecdote.

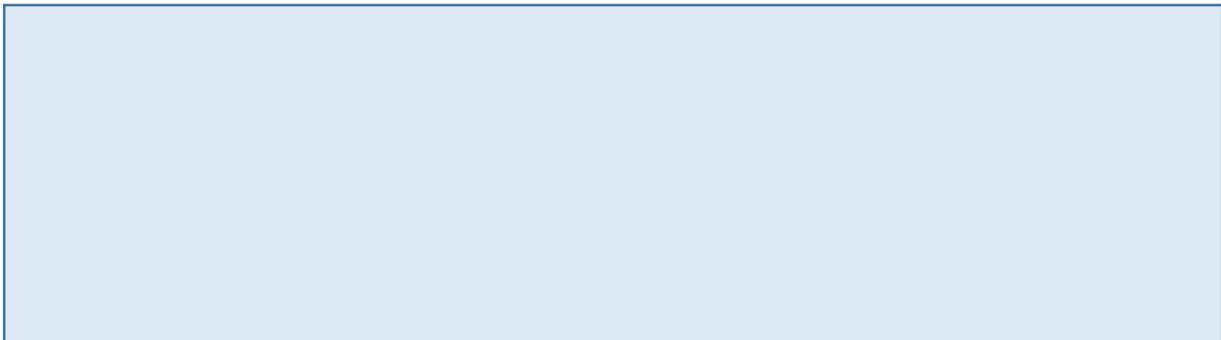
List three ways your library positively impacts the lives of people in your community ***every day***.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Using your answers from page 1, prepare your 2-minute “elevator speech.” This is a rough draft. Make it too long now and cut it down as needed for various situations.



Using your answers from page 1 and the elevator speech, prepare your 30-second “why libraries are great” speech. A rough version is fine. You’ll perfect it as you practice it. Avoid using librarian jargon or acronyms and phrases staff use, like “circ desk.” Always deliver this one with a huge, genuine smile!



Using your work so far, sketch a rough draft of an email to a potential community partner. No longer than 3 paragraphs, and no paragraph longer than 3 sentences. Brevity and readability really counts!



Brainstorm and make a quick list of any organization in your community that came to mind as we talked about community partnerships and outreach. Use the back of this page. Below are some categories to get you started.

Garden Club

Nursing Homes

Member-based Groups (AARP, NAACP, etc.)

Philanthropy Groups (Rotary, Civitan, etc.)

Girl/Boy Scout Troops or other Youth Education

Sheriff's Office, Fire or Police Department

Local Businesses

Schools (Public, Private, Adult Continuing, Community College, University)

Animal Shelters or Rescues

Boys & Girls' Club or Afterschool Programs

Great resources for ideas for programs that can turn into Outreach Opportunities:

- Get in the habit of checking in with the websites of larger, urban libraries to see what they're doing and get inspiration.
- Read some of the many amazing library blogs. A few examples:
<http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/ericacompton/mid-life-adult-programming-ideas>
<http://www.mightylittlelibrarian.com/>
<http://www.readerpants.net/>
<http://geniushour.blogspot.com/>
<http://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com/>
- Check out: State Library Associations and your State Library/Library Commission, School Library Journal, trade publications, professional conferences, library association newsletters
- ARSL: The Association for Rural and Small Libraries <http://arsl.info/>
- A long list of youth programming ideas: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/kickstart>
- Take a look at Pinterest!
(Search for "library programs," "programming inspiration" or "Library ideas," etc.)
- Brainstorm with your Teen Library Council or Friends group.
- Brainstorm regularly with your staff – goldmine!
- Get ideas from the people you speak to at other community organizations via email, phone or in person. Listen to what they're telling you about needs that need to be met!