

4.2

STRUCTURING YOUR CASE AROUND THE “BACK STORY” AND THE “FULL STORY”

CREATE YOUR OWN CASE TOOLKIT EXERCISE

The purpose of your case is to teach something to others. A great way to do this is by structuring your case into two parts: the *back story* and the *full story*. The back story provides information about the people in the case and ends with the central mismatch that the reader needs to reflect on. The full story either provides the resolution to the situation or demonstrates the way that progress was made toward managing the mismatch. You can review the [Case Collection](#)* to see examples of this case structure.

Instructions: As you consider the case you are developing, place information in each of the appropriate boxes below as a guide to help you organize your writing.

The Back Story

Consider: What are you trying to teach? What is your main message? What complex choices do you want your reader to grapple with and discuss with others?

Include: The background of the people involved in the case, important events, and details about the central mismatch of the case. End the back story either with a situation that is not resolved and that the reader needs to respond to.

The Full Story

Consider: What lessons would you like your reader to come away with?

Include: The resolution to the mismatch or an explanation of the progress that was made toward managing it.

*NOTE: The Case Collection is available here: <http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/professional-development/create-your-own-case-toolkit-case-collection>