



Share Your Story

Your Story Matters.

You have the unique opportunity of getting to see Room to Read's work in person and we want to hear all about it! Below are the different ways you can share your story with us. Please take a few minutes to review the possibilities and, if you'd like to participate, let us know what you are thinking and if you have any questions. Otherwise, we will be in touch after your visit to see if you are interested in documenting your experience.

How your story can be told:

- *First-person story written by you:*
Show off your writing skills and take on a diary-form story, where you can share the details of your experience and the impact it had on your life.
- *Third-person story written by our Room to Read staff:*
If you're not a fan of writing your own story, you can simply fill out a list of question with detailed answers and our marketing team will craft your story into a blog, which you will approve.
- *Interviews from Room to Read staff, students or partners*
For those interested in putting on your storyteller hat, you can interview a teacher, social mobilizer, student, or partner of Room to Read. Simply record your interview, transcribe the questions and answers and send it to our team to see if it's a fit for our blog. If you're interested, let us know ahead of time and we can ensure you have time for this in your agenda.
- *Photography:*
Have an eye for captivating, candid photos? Bring along your DSLR camera and capture your trip through a series of images. From there we can create an engaging slideshow on our blog.
- *Video:*
Is filming one of your passions? Video is currently the most effective form of storytelling and we're always looking for more of it. If you love creating them, capture footage of your site visit and share it with us, or craft your own brief one to two-minute movie.
- *Presentation or Webinar:*
There's no better way to get people involved than share your story with them. If you work at a company that's looking for new ways to create team comradery or charitable opportunities, then create a presentation filled with photos and highlights of your trip to encourage others to join the Room to Read family. Reach out to us if you'd like more information on statistics and branding.
- *Drawings:*
Traveling with a child? We'd love to see a site visit through their eyes! Your child can draw their favorite moment of the site visit and share it with us.

Questions to Answer:

If you'd like us to consider writing a story about your experience. Please answer the below questions:

1. How did you learn about Room to Read?
2. Why were you interested in participating in the site visit?
3. Tell me about your experience at the school/with the kids? Was there any moment that left an impression on you?
4. Who did you meet that was most memorable? Tell us about them.
5. How was this trip meaningful for you?
6. What's something you took away from the trip that's carried into your daily life?
7. After seeing our work, why do you think Room to Read is a cause worth supporting?
8. Why do you think other donors would enjoy experiencing a site visit?
9. In addition to these questions, please send 3-5 photos of your site visit including at least one with you in it.

Branding Guidelines:

When it comes to posting content or sharing your story with external mediums, be sure to review our branding guidelines on our [Media Page](#). A few key highlights to remember are:

- Be sure to use our most recent Room to Read [logo](#)
- When discussing a child, we want to protect their identity and safety. So, only note their first name and the school or region versus the full name, school and region.
- Want to include current statistics? Reach out and we can send you a handout for guidance.
- Looking for ways to describe Room to Read's work? Check out our boiler plates [here](#).
- High resolutions photos and video b-roll are always available for use [here](#).

Social Media Engagement:

If you post any Room to Read-related content while on your trip. Be sure to tag us **@RoomtoRead** and hashtag **#RoomtoRead** and **#ActiveforEducation** on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

(Storytelling Tips on page 3)

Storytelling Tips:

- *Take a range of photos.*
Being that most people have likely never been to the region you'll be visiting, high quality photos are the best mode of storytelling. Photos that show the region's landscape, candid shots of site visit participants and students, or posed photos full of smiles all work great.
See the attached handout for a simple, yet helpful photography tip.
- *More photos, less text.*
We live in a digital world that is inundated with content, so we recommend keeping stories between 450 and 600 words with at least 3-5 photos to create an engaging experience.
- *Details make a world of difference.*
The more specifics you note, the more visual the story will be. To help, keep a notebook handy and write down details about the scene, the students and the landscape you can refer to later.
- *Make a list of questions.*
Open-ended questions invite someone to discuss their experience and encourage full answers. Avoid questions that can be answered with just 'yes or no.' Looking for inspiration? See the attached interview guide.
- *Create a simple story arc.*
It may sound basic, but remember to have a beginning, middle and end that reflects your own site visit. Think of three to five key moments that stand out when you look back on your experience and see how you can use those to form a story arc.

Interview Questions for Girls' Education Site Visits:

Before you go, think of the different people you'll have the opportunity to speak with, such as social mobilizers, Girls Education students and parents. Below are several questions to help guide your conversation.

Questions for Students:

1. What were you or your family struggling with before you started attending life skills classes and working with your social mobilizer?
2. How do you use your life skills in everyday life? Can you share an example?
3. What difficulties has your social mobilizer helped you work through?
4. What did you think your future would look like before you started the life skills classes?
5. What do you hope for your future now?

Questions for Social Mobilizers:

1. What do you think children/families are struggling with most in this community?
2. Why do think most girls drop out of school?
3. How do the life skills classes help? Can you share an example of a girl who applied these skills in her life?
4. How does the community feel about girls going to secondary school and university?
5. How do you encourage parents and elders to encourage young girls to pursue their education?
6. What do you enjoy most about being a social mobilizer?

Questions for Parents:

1. Where did you grow up and what your childhood was like?
2. Did you attend school? How important was education to your family?
3. What challenges did you experience when sending your daughter to school?
4. How have these life skills classes helped your daughter? Can you think of an example where you noticed her growth?
5. How has your perspective on education changed since your daughter started these classes?
6. What do you hope for your daughter's future?
7. Why are you proud of your daughter?

Interview Questions for Literacy Site Visits:

Before you go, think of the different people you will have the opportunity to speak with, such as teachers, students, and parents. Below are several questions to help guide your conversation.

Questions for Students:

1. How do you feel when you visit the library? What's your favorite part?
2. What's your favorite subject and why?
3. Tell me about your favorite book. Why do you enjoy it?
4. Do you take books home? Do you read to your parents or siblings?

Questions for Parents:

1. Where did you grow up and what your childhood was like?
2. Did you attend school? How important was school to your family?
3. What were some of the challenges you experienced in sending your child to school?
4. How has the library made your child's after-school life more enjoyable?
5. How has your perspective on education changed since you started attending the community meetings?
6. What do you hope for your child's future?
7. Why are you proud of your child?

Questions for Teachers:

1. How long have you been teaching?
2. How has Room to Read's training and curriculum helped you as a teacher?
3. What do you think children/families struggle with most in this community?
4. Can you share a story about a student who has significantly progressed this year? What helped them improve?
5. What do you hope for your students' future?