There is no way for us to verify if these stories are true or if they happened to you and not someone you know. So please be honest about that.

**Does the story fit the theme? 1 pt**

Stories must fit the theme but also feel free to be creative. Have fun!

**Does the story have an actual plot? 1 pt**

Please avoid rambling about various topics or giving more of an essay or column. Judges and listeners are not interested in hearing storytellers share what being young and wreckless meant to them. We do, however, want to know about the trouble that wreckless youth got into. It’s certainly fine to insert a sentimental line, but we’re really much more interested in STORIES more so than feelings. Additionally, we have a very strict NO STAND UP policy. Be funny if you want. But be funny in your story.

**How compelling is it? Does the listener actually care about where this is going? 5 pts**

Look to grab the attention of the audience right away. If we’re not hooked within the first 30 seconds, it’s going to be a long seven minutes.  We want interesting and unique stories.

**Is the story told in a way that will engage a live audience? 5 pts**

Do you use different accents for different characters? We can’t see you obviously, but think about how you might incorporate body language and a bit of acting. Some of the most mundane “on paper” stories can be told with a great style that draws in the audience. Again, although this is not stand-up, we enjoy charisma and someone who can really illuminate a story for listeners.

**Voice Quality- 5 pts**

This is the more “technical” scoring category. We don’t want to make personal judgments on the quality of someone’s voice, but things like pace, how well you articulate and how confident you sound when speaking matter. Remember that speaking too quickly and not clearly will confuse listeners, and we may miss portions of your story that are important.

**Total possible: 17**

Any stories that do not fit the first two criteria will be automatically dismissed. You must have at least 10 of the remaining 15 points to stay in the running after that.