

Reparative Journalism:

The Healing Power of Storytelling

Reflection & Discussion Guide

Introduction

The Reparative Journalism video series is a visual roadmap of what's both required and possible when we prioritize reparative processes in journalism. This series grew out of Free Press staffer Diamond Hardiman's research into how to apply a reparations model to the field of journalism in service of a future of media reparations. The Free Press [News Voices team](#) has informed and managed this project, with the support and scholarship of [Media 2070](#) members.

Video Description

In this [third video](#) in [Free Press' Reparative Journalism video series](#), we sit with DaLyah Jones and Tonia Hill, two Black journalists who share their lived experiences of practicing reparative journalism. In our video, DaLyah and Tonia reflect on how their work reclaims the lineage of storytelling. They emphasize how storytelling can shift conditions to create the space necessary to facilitate individual, communal and societal-level healing.

Discuss

- What is your personal connection to storytelling? What is the role of storytelling in your life?
- How does DaLyah define reparative journalism? What do you think reparative journalism is — or could be?
- What values do DaLyah and Tonia bring to their journalism?
- If you were a journalist, what communities would you want to serve?
- What does a feeling of “freedom within our bodies, within our minds” have to do with journalism?

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Engage

Describe your own storytelling journey. Pick three artifacts from your life and explore the role of storytelling in your life, and how that influences the values and principles you want to bring to your storytelling going forward. (Artifacts could be a photo, a family story, something you made in your past, a book, a personal item, a creative tool, etc.)

Listen

[Reparative Journalism: Healing Narratives for Social Justice](#) by Infinite Patterns, a podcast of the Racial Equity in Journalism Fund at Borealis Philanthropy

Free Press is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan organization fighting for your rights to connect and communicate.

Our [News Voices program](#) organizes with communities, journalists and newsrooms to build power and advocate for the news, information and narratives that people need to thrive. Since 2015, we've held dozens of public forums that brought together community members and journalists, launched creative community-led journalism collaborations, partnered with newsrooms to work more closely with their audiences, run workshops to train reporters on how to use organizing strategies in their newsgathering, developed resources for the public to amplify news coverage of untold stories, and campaigned for legislation to invest in innovative news and information projects.

The [Media 2070 project](#) uses the framework of media reparations to call on media companies, the government, philanthropy and the broader public to reckon with and repair the historical and ongoing harm our nation's media system has caused Black people. Launched in 2020 by Free Press' Black caucus, the project's home lies within the broader reparations field. Media 2070 is a continuation of a lineage of racial-justice organizing and movement mobilization that seeks to shift systemic power to repair centuries of harm, enslavement and colonialism. Media 2070 works in alignment with new economic systems that serve intersectional Black liberation and Indigenous sovereignty.