



TOMODACHI Story Jam for Youth with Disabilities WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY!

ARE YOU A STUDENT OR A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL WITH A DISABILITY?
JOIN TOMODACHI STORY JAM AND SHARE YOUR STORY WITH OTHER
JAPANESE AND AMERICAN YOUTH!



WHAT ARE DIGITAL STORIES?

Digital Stories are true, first-person video stories — not essays, presentations, or journalistic reports. You will use the “I” voice to tell your personal story. Stories like these can foster connection with people all over the world!

WHAT IS TOMODACHI STORY JAM?

In Story Jam, you will identify a moment or moments when you overcame barriers as a college student or young professional with a disability. You will learn how to **write and create a 3-4-minute digital story.**

Our facilitators from StoryCenter will guide you through the steps of how to write your impactful story, record your narrative, create visuals, and edit everything together to create a short video.

We will invite **guest speakers** to help you engage more deeply with your story. We will also pair you with a participant from the opposite country for **cross-cultural peer mentoring.**



WHY PARTICIPATE IN TOMODACHI STORY JAM?

REFLECT.

Discover and think deeply about your personal life experiences.

SHARE YOUR STORIES.

Collectively explore experiences of breaking down barriers. Learn how to use digital storytelling to advocate for yourself and others!

BUILD COMMUNITY.

Meet other Japanese and American students and young professionals with disabilities and learn about each other's cultures.

PRACTICE LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

Apply cross-cultural communication and digital skills in your day-to-day disability advocacy.

WHAT DO TOMODACHI STORY JAM STORYTELLERS TALK ABOUT?

- Tell us about a moment when you **witnessed or experienced injustice**. How did it change you and the trajectory of your life?
- Have you ever **questioned your sense of belonging** as a person with a disability? How did you overcome this feeling, and what did you learn about yourself?
- Share about a time when you have **shown solidarity with your peers**. What sparked your feeling of solidarity?
- What are some **challenges you have faced and overcome** at college or work?

WHAT DOES THE TOMODACHI STORY JAM PROGRAM INVOLVE?



TOMODACHI Story Jam is a nine-week digital storytelling program. We will accept 10 Story Jam participants for Fall 2023.

The Story Jam program includes:

- Nine 2-hour group sessions from September through November
- 3–5 hours of individual support from facilitators, as needed
- 5–8 hours of independent work on script, audio recording and editing, capturing or creating visuals, and video editing

We will host group sessions on Zoom on Thursdays from 7–9pm Eastern Standard Time, which is Fridays, 8–10am Japanese Standard Time.

SESSIONS	US Dates	Japan Dates
Session 1	September 7	September 8
Session 2	September 14	September 15
Session 3	September 21	September 22
Session 4	September 28	September 29
Session 5	October 5	October 6
Session 6	October 12	October 13
Session 7	October 19	October 20
Session 8	October 26	October 27
Session 9 – Final Event	November 2	November 3

*We will provide English live captioning and American Sign Language (ASL)

WHO CAN APPLY FOR TOMODACHI STORY JAM?

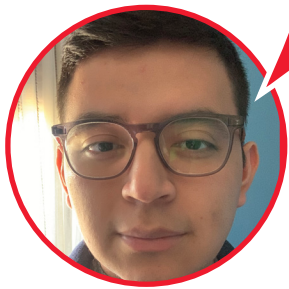
To qualify for Story Jam, you must:

- Be a Japanese or American individual with a disability between the ages of 18 and 35
- Be a student enrolled at a Japanese or American college, a young professional working part time or full time, or a self-employed young professional
- Have basic English language skills (conversation, reading, and writing), or if you are Deaf, have basic English language reading and writing skills and basic ASL skills
- Have a compelling story about your experience of breaking down barriers at college, work, or other areas of life (e.g., relationships, family, community), and lessons learned
- Be willing to attend all scheduled group sessions and adhere to storytelling deadlines
- Give permission to have your digital story shared at a final online event

WHAT THE 2022 STORY JAM PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING

“What I realized through Story Jam is that there are different aspects of the word ‘diversity’ — there are differences in culture, but there are also similarities in the way things are.”

CHRIS



“This program changed my mind about what advocacy should sound or look like... Really, advocacy is being yourself and telling your story.”

DAN



“I felt safe speaking up in the group and telling my story. I never felt judged by the other participants; it was refreshing to be able to be myself and share my story openly.”

YUI



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HOW CAN I APPLY FOR TOMODACHI STORY JAM?

Apply online:

<https://tinyurl.com/3t6c94m4>

Or click QR code:



DEADLINE: JULY 28, 2023



The program is part of the TOMODACHI Initiative, a public-private partnership between the U.S.-Japan Council and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. The program is supported by Northrop Grumman Corporation, and implemented by the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at UMass Boston and StoryCenter, through partnership with TOMODACHI. Since the 1960s, the ICI has been a leader in disability inclusion and advocacy.