Truth, Beauty, and Stories

Telling Stories with Data

October 25, 2017

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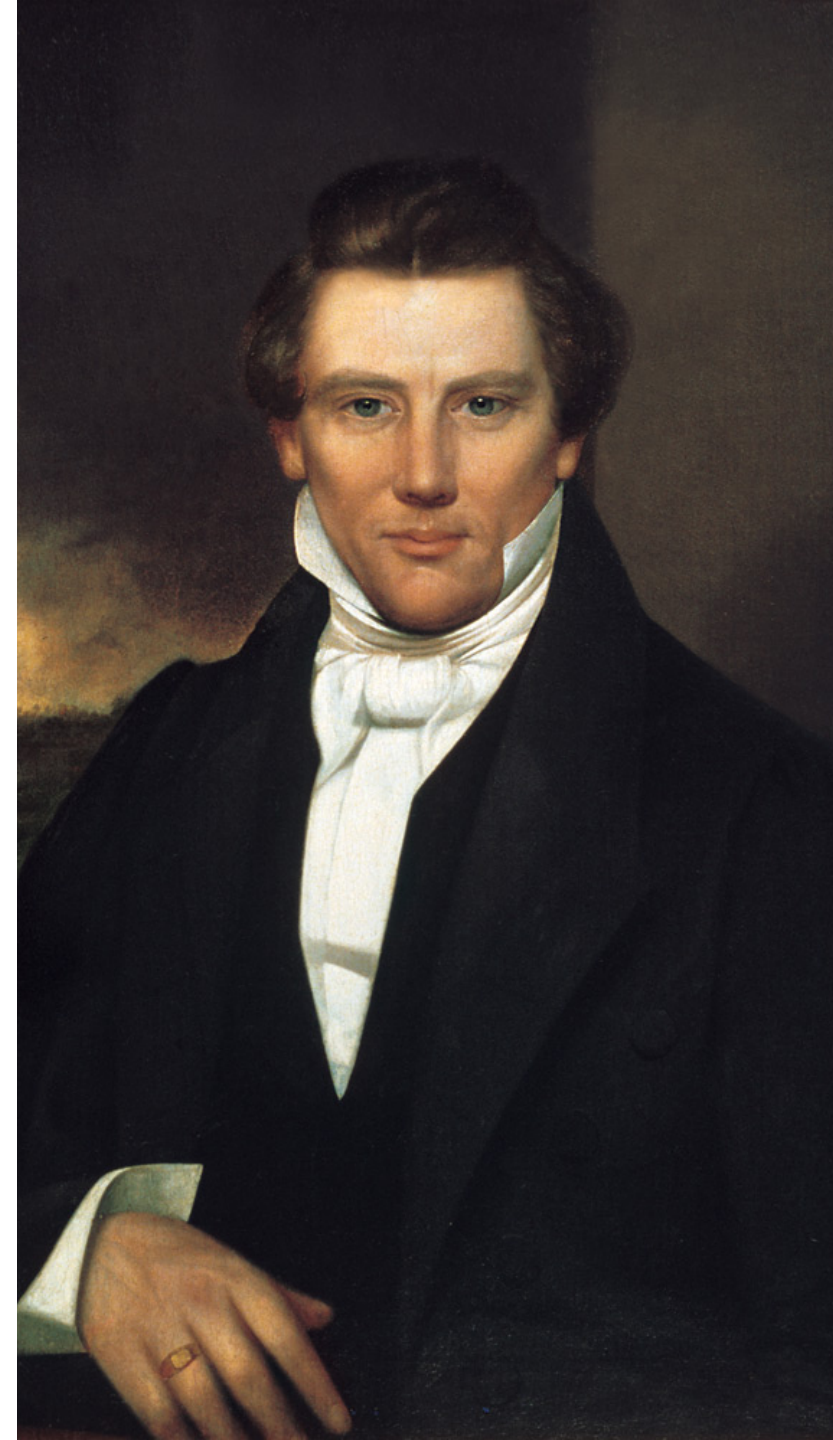
Plan for today

Oh say, what is truth?

Storytelling and truth

Course overview

What is truth?

"The first and fundamental principle of our holy religion is, that we believe that we have a right to embrace all, and every item of truth"

"[R]eceive truth, let it come from whence it may"

How do we find truth?

Neil deGrasse Tyson ✔
@neiltyson

Following

The good thing about Science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it.

8:41 AM - 14 Jun 2013

15,148 Retweets   8,257 Likes

822   ⟲ 15K   ♡ 8.3K

Is there truth in art and fiction?

Facts ≠ truth

It "is of little significance as to whether Jonah [or Job] was a real individual or one chosen by the writer of the book" to illustrate "what is set forth therein."

What is important, [they] insisted, was not whether the books were historically accurate, but whether the doctrines were correct.

First Presidency, 1922

Facts ≠ truth

"Just because something happened does not mean that it is morally instructive; just because it never happened does not mean that it is not true."

Michael Austin, Re-reading Job: Understanding the Ancient World's Greatest Poem, 20

Art and rhetoric

λόγος	λέξις
Res	Verba
Content	Form
Essence	Structure

Storytelling and truth

What are your favorite stories?

Why are they so great?
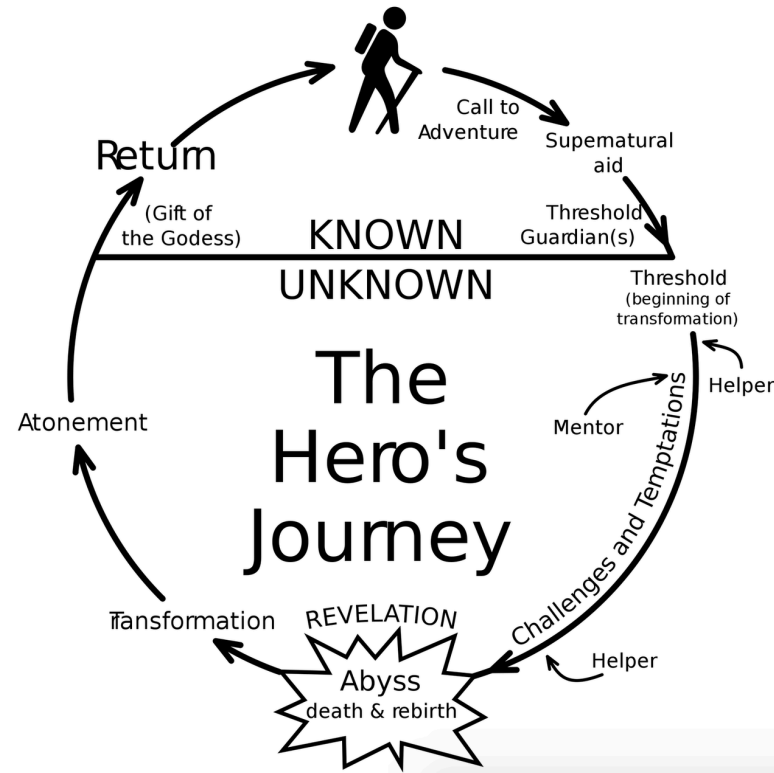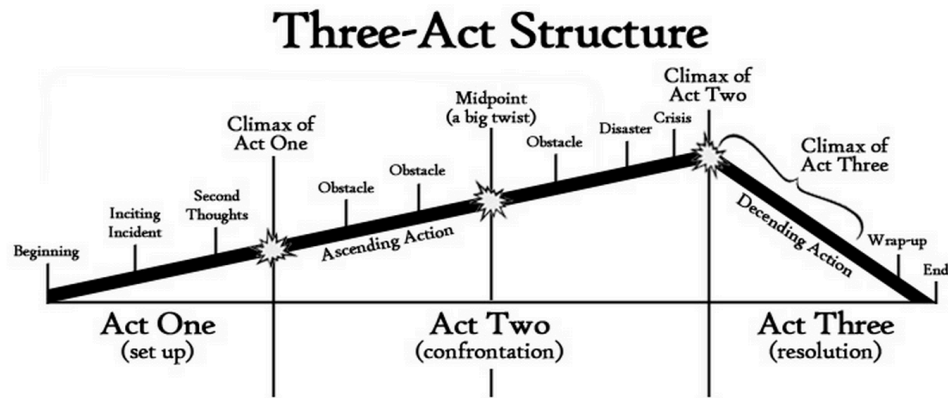
Why do people like stories?

Stories are how we translate core, essential **content** to different **forms** for specific **audiences**

Story form: Rhetoric

Story form: Structures

Content, form, and data

What is the **content** of research and analysis?

What is the **form** of research and analysis?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Identifier	Recipient Org:Identifier	Recipient Org:Name	Title	Description	Currenc	Amount	Award Date	Planned Dat	Planned Date	Planned
3	360G-CR-482347	360G-CR-461486	Global March Against Child Labour	From Exploitation to Education and Empowerment through Child	From Exploitation to	GBP	211565	2015-03-18	2016-01-26	2017-09-01	18
4	360G-CR-780919	360G-CR-259636	Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP)	Children and young people at risk: building resilience- from resea	Children and young p	GBP	579666	2015-05-27	2015-07-30	2020-08-01	60
5	360G-CR-1082389	GB-CHC-1119544	The Global Fund for Children UK Trust	Reaching the most vulnerable children in the Dominican Republic	Reaching the most v	GBP	232138	2015-05-27	2015-06-24	2018-01-01	36
6	360G-CR-1133075	GB-COH-05611912	Lumos	Ending the institutionalisation of children in Haiti	Ending the institutio	GBP	277657	2015-05-27	2015-07-21	2017-08-01	24
7	360G-CR-857111	GB-CHC-328434	ChildHope UK	Protecting the rights of street connected children and young peo	Protecting the rights	GBP	689029	2015-05-27	2015-07-01	2018-09-01	36
8	360G-CR-1264184	GB-CHC-1110096	The Aletheia Foundation	Kids in Camp school fees	Kids in Camp school	GBP	66700	2015-05-27	2015-06-24	2020-08-01	60
9	360G-CR-1043522	GB-CHC-1088021	Pan African Development Education Advocacy Programme	End Child, Early and Forced marriage for girls in Katsina State, Nig	End Child, Early and	GBP	10000	2015-05-27	2015-07-08	2016-09-01	4
10	360G-CR-1083457	GB-CHC-1111364	Laureus Sport for Good Foundation	Waves for Change: Surf Therapy for Communities of High Violenc	Waves for Change: S	GBP	150000	2015-05-27	2015-07-01	2018-08-01	36
11	360G-CR-1100441	GB-CHC-1137636	Fight for Peace International	Combining B&MA with pyscho-social services to support at-risk y	Combining B&MA wi	GBP	149517	2015-05-27	2015-07-08	2018-09-07	36
12	360G-CR-331449	GB-SC-SC041604	YES! Tanzania	Esso Community Sport for Change Project - Research & Consultat	Esso Community Spc	GBP	9656	2015-05-27	2015-07-01	2016-03-01	6
13	360G-CR-868330	GB-CHC-1109789	Y Care International	Protecting and rehabilitating vulnerable and at risk young people	Protecting and rehab	GBP	711347	2015-05-27	2015-08-26	2019-10-01	48
14	360G-CR-1024900	GB-CHC-1126793	Support and Love Via Education International	Developing an Inhalant Rehabilitation Programme for Street Con	Developing an Inhala	GBP	9405	2015-05-27	2015-07-30	2016-03-01	6
15	360G-CR-1096794	GB-COH-06988498	Women Win	Let's Coach and Let's Lead	Let's Coach and Let's	GBP	165000	2015-07-15	2015-09-14	2018-10-01	36
16	360G-CR-1133611	GB-CHC-1147956	Skateistan UK	Enabling South African Youth through Skateboarding and Educati	Enabling South Africa	GBP	55000	2015-07-15	2015-09-11	2017-09-01	18
17	360G-CR-1410599	GB-CHC-1161848	Happy Child International Foundation	It's a Penalty Campaign - Rio 2016	It's a Penalty Campai	GBP	50000	2015-09-30	2015-10-28	2016-12-01	12
18	360G-CR-1659009	GB-COH-00178159	Save the Children UK	Supporting kindergartens for Syrian children in Jordan	Supporting kinderga	GBP	300000	2015-09-30	2015-12-30	2017-04-01	12
19	360G-CR-1437746	GB-CHC-1122894	Team Kenya	School Related Gender Based Violence Community Action Resear	School Related Gend	GBP	9850	2015-11-25	2016-02-01	2016-10-01	6
20	360G-CR-1324293	GB-CHC-1013587	Chance for Childhood	LEAP from the Street - Learning, Educating and Protecting	LEAP from the Street	GBP	695993	2015-11-25	2016-02-22	2020-04-01	48
21	360G-CR-1324431	GB-CHC-1139074	United Purpose	Pathways to BRiDGES	Pathways to BRiDGE:	GBP	816083	2015-11-25	2015-12-18	2021-03-01	60
22	360G-CR-1324510	GB-CHC-1111364	Laureus Sport for Good Foundation	MYSA - Creating Sustainable Change in East Nairobi	MYSA - Creating Sust	GBP	300000	2015-11-25	2015-12-24	2019-03-01	36
23	360G-CR-1321721	GB-CHC-1109789	Y Care International	Mobilising young people in Liberia and Sierra Leone to rebuild co	Mobilising young pec	GBP	644544	2015-11-25	2016-01-18	2018-04-01	24
24	360G-CR-1172762	GB-CHC-292592	Amos Trust	Completing the cycle for children on the streets: outreach - enga	Completing the cycle	GBP	304307	2015-11-25	2015-12-14	2019-03-01	36
25	360G-CR-1448529	GB-CHC-1111364	Laureus Sport for Good Foundation	Creating change through mountain biking and education in South	Creating change thro	GBP	100086	2015-11-25	2015-12-24	2019-03-01	36
26	360G-CR-1114270	GB-CHC-1122799	Retrak	Care and protection of highly vulnerable children, young people a	Care and protection	GBP	999424	2015-11-25	2016-01-08	2020-03-01	48
27	360G-CR-1350208	GB-CHC-1046579	Consortium for Street Children	Ensuring Street Children shape the new international law on chilc	Ensuring Street Child	GBP	10000	2015-11-25	2016-02-01	2016-09-01	6
28	360G-CR-1581234	GB-CHC-1069022	Action for Brazil's Children Trust	Strikers for Peace - reducing violence and discrimination in the M	Strikers for Peace - r	GBP	176099	2016-01-27	2016-03-18	2019-05-01	36
29	360G-CR-1525658	GB-CHC-1139074	United Purpose	Court of Dreams	Court of Dreams	GBP	150052	2016-01-27	2016-04-04	2019-06-15	36
30	360G-CR-1787401	GB-CHC-326859	AbleChildAfrica	Sports for Inclusion: Changing the Game for Disabled Children in	Sports for Inclusion:	GBP	174989	2016-01-27	2016-02-15	2019-05-01	36
31	360G-CR-1455830	GB-CHC-1084546	Chemin Neuf Community	Family Reunification and Re-integration of Street Children in Kins	Family Reunification	GBP	300880	2016-03-16	2016-05-27	2019-08-01	36
32	360G-CR-1274797	GB-COH-03079904	Anti-Slavery International	Eradicating Forced Child Begging in Senegal	Eradicating Forced C	GBP	767078	2276-03-16	2016-05-06	2021-08-01	60
33	360G-CR-1537184	GB-CHC-1162219	Heaven Homes and Children's Centres	Organisation development grant	Organisation develop	GBP	30000	2536-03-16	2016-09-01	2017-11-01	12
34	360G-CR-1516142	GB-CHC-1151219	DeafKidz International	Signing Safe Futures South Africa!	Signing Safe Futures	GBP	247528	2516-03-16	2016-04-25	2018-07-01	24
35	360G-CR-1914456	360G-CR-1914451	iSpace Foundation	Unlocking Potential : Technology & Women Empowerment	Unlocking Potential :	GBP	552097	2016-05-13	2016-06-22	2019-08-01	36
36	360G-CR-1916187	GB-COH-09197074	Africa Technology Business Network	African Women Innovators Network	African Women Inno	GBP	45600	2016-05-13	2016-08-10	2018-03-01	18
37	360G-CR-1914874	GB-COH-01921508	Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development	TuWezesha Akina Dada- Africa UK Young Women's Leadership ar	TuWezesha Akina Da	GBP	1198295	2016-05-13	2016-09-05	2019-09-01	36
38	360G-CR-1944292	GB-COH-02832875	Common Purpose Charitable Trust	A blended learning leadership programme for the Diaspora Chan	A blended learning le	GBP	49000	2016-05-13	2016-07-11	2018-09-01	24
39	360G-CR-1908507	GB-COH-04772972	African Foundation for Development	Diaspora Finance and Remittance Investment Initiative (DFRII)	Diaspora Finance and	GBP	2943520	2016-05-13	2016-07-11	2019-08-20	36
40	360G-CR-1953973	360G-CR-1899867	Education International	Developing educators, improving early learning in rural Tanzania	Developing educator	GBP	606228	2016-09-28	2016-10-24	2021-01-01	48
41	360G-CR-1874060	360G-CR-1873440	Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education	Support for Action for Most Marginalized Children Education (SA	Support for Action fc	GBP	800000	2016-05-13	2016-06-15	2021-03-01	54

Article

When Do Stories Work? Evidence and Illustration in the Social Sciences

Andrew Gelman[1] and Thomas Basbøll[2]

Abstract

Storytelling has long been recognized as central to human cognition and communication. Here we explore a more active role of stories in social science research, not merely to illustrate concepts but also to develop new ideas and evaluate hypotheses, for example, in deciding that a research method is effective. We see stories as central to engagement with the development and evaluation of theories, and we argue that for a story to be useful in this way, it should be *anomalous* (representing aspects of life that are not well explained by existing models) and *immutable* (with details that are well-enough established that they have the potential to indicate problems with a new model). We develop these ideas through considering two well-known examples from the work of Karl Weick and Robert Axelrod, and we discuss why transparent sourcing (in the case of Axelrod) makes a story a more effective research tool, whereas improper sourcing (in the case of Weick) interferes with the key useful roles of stories in the scientific process.

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[2] Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy, Copenhagen Business School, Copen-

Literature review

Hypotheses
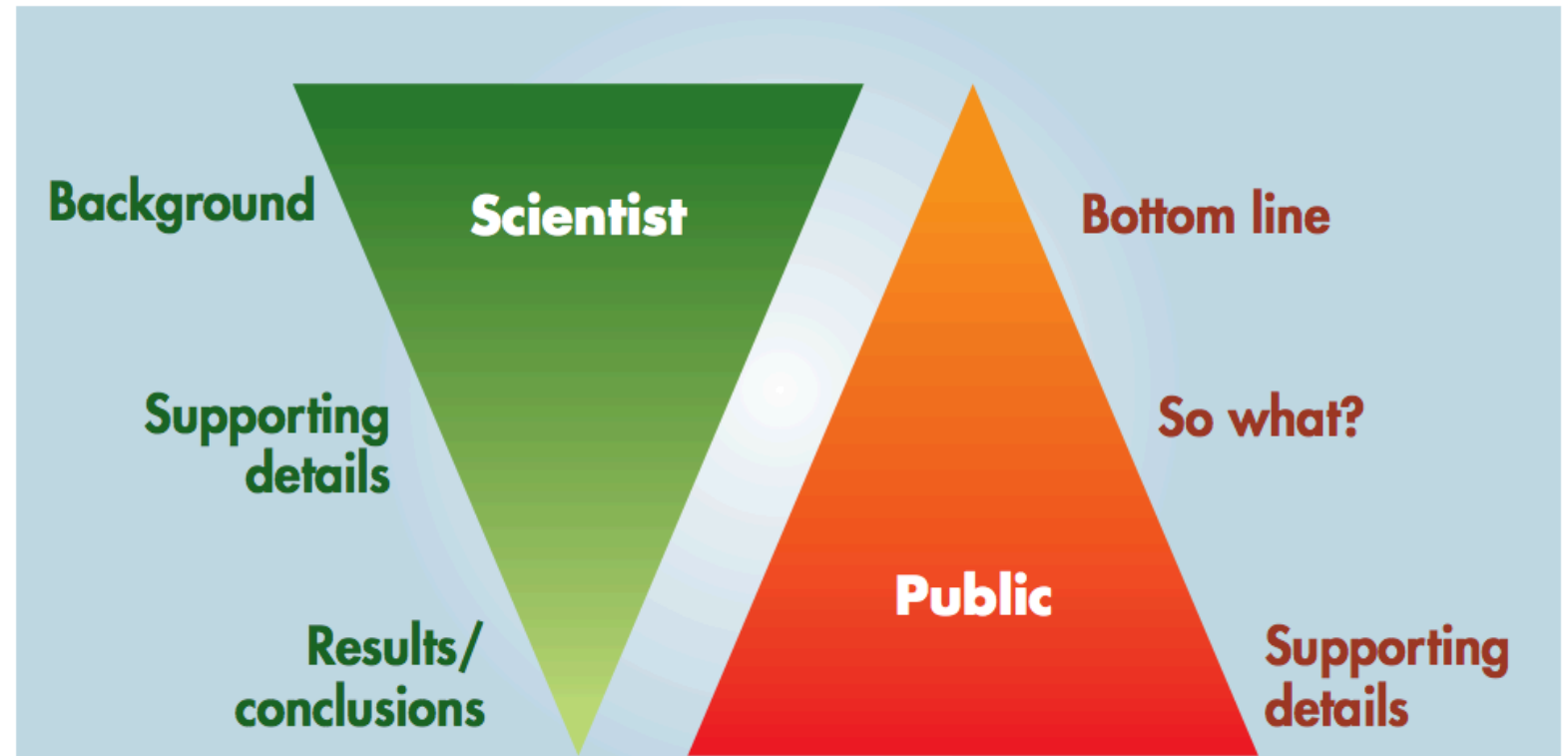
Empirical strategy

Data

Results

Discussion

Figure 3. Scientists can communicate more effectively with the public about climate change by inverting the pyramid of their usual presentations to colleagues. That is, start with the "bottom line" and tell people why they should care.

Course overview

Design   Narrative   Delivery

If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?

My Adventures in the Art and Science of Relating and Communicating

LARGE PRINT
RANDOM HOUSE

New York Times bestselling author
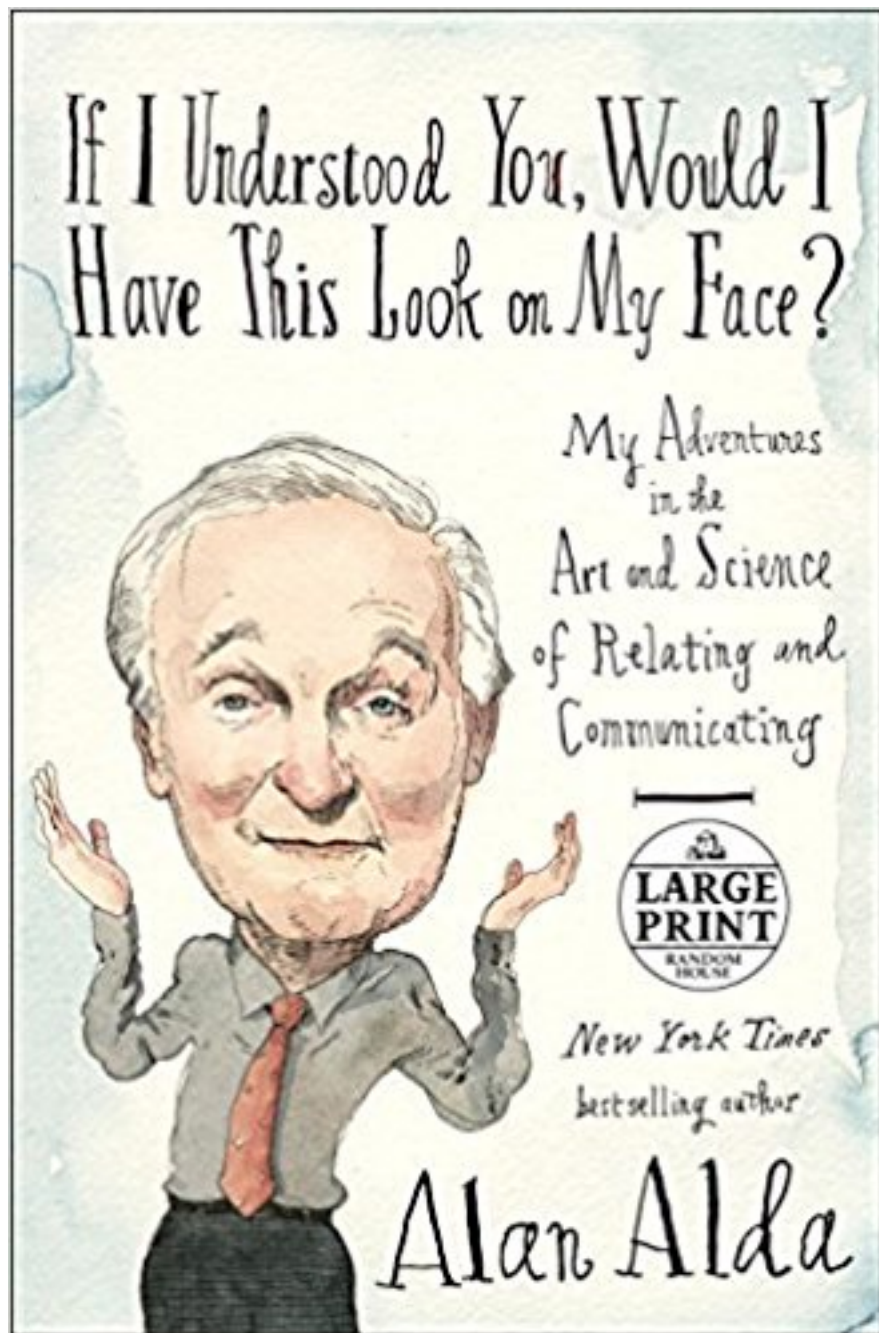
Alan Alda

ALAN ALDA CENTER FOR
COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

Stony Brook University

Main assignments

Weekly reflection memos

3 mini-projects

Final project

An Institutional Theory of the Nonprofit: Toll Goods an Voluntary Action

Eva M. Witesman[1]

Abstract
The evolution of activity within the nonprofit sect
without the sector) has outpaced the ability of no
contrast to legalistic, sector-based theories of the n
institutional theory of the nonprofit that defines its di
institutions through (a) the voluntary (rather than c
(b) the use of the good or service by non-payers.
nature of such nonprofit-type institutions makes the
distribution of goods that are non-subtractable and

Keywords
nonprofit theory, nature of goods, institutional the
goods

Nonprofit organizations have long been identified in
that meet certain requirements and provisions set fo
code. Although a formal nonprofit sector does not e
legal form as it does in the United States, sch
operational" definitions of the nonprofit sector that c
of the U.S. tax code in defining nonprofits for int
1999; Salamon & Anheier, 1992a, 1992b). The Johns
Sector Project was among the first to define the no
concept, and this definition has been one of the mo
profit sector is a set of organisations that are formall

[1]Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, USA

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Eva M. Witesman, Romney Institute of Public Management, Brigha

Story portfolio

Outline for a 60-minute talk

Outline for a 10-minute talk*

Two-page policy brief

Op-ed   400-word blog post

Three-tweet tweetstorm

Single tweet

Course policies

Class conduct and expectations

On the first day of class we'll come up with rules, expectations, and policies for things like technology in the classroom, attendance, participation, late work, etc. I will put those here once we all agree.

Assignments this weekend

Read the syllabus

Read readings for October 25 and 30