

Story: Breaking Barriers faced by women in leadership roles

Audience: High School Girls

You are a group of intelligent, ambitious high school girls, eager to make your mark on the world. You have big dreams and are starting to think about your future, whether it is in science, business, politics, or any field you are passionate about. You are aware of some challenges but might not yet understand the full scope of the hurdles women face in leadership roles.

Key Message

The key message is that women can and should be leaders. By understanding the challenges and barriers women have historically faced and still face today, you can be better prepared to overcome them. Your potential to change the world is immense, and it is crucial to believe in your ability to rise to leadership positions, where you can make a significant impact.

Protagonist: Meet Maria, a determined 16-year-old high school junior. Maria loves science and dreams of becoming an engineer. She is an excellent student, always curious and eager to learn more. Maria often hears about the accomplishments of great scientists and leaders, but she notices that there are not many women among them. This observation begins to trouble her.

Step 1: The Setup – Maria is in her chemistry class, where her teacher announces a national science competition. Excited, Maria decides to enter, hoping this will be her chance to shine. She works tirelessly on her project, putting in extra hours after school, fueled by her passion for innovation and discovery.

Step 2: The Inciting Incident – As Maria prepares for the competition, she starts researching the history of women in science. She discovers stories of incredible women who faced immense challenges. Marie Curie, who won Nobel Prizes but struggled for recognition in a male-dominated field; Ada Lovelace, who envisioned computer programming but was overshadowed by her male counterparts. Maria realizes that the underrepresentation of women in leadership is not just history, but a current reality.

Step 3: The Rising Action – Motivated by these stories, Maria decides to dig deeper. She interviews women in her community who have pursued careers in science, technology,

engineering, and math (STEM). She hears about the barriers they face: wage gaps, lack of mentorship, and balancing family responsibilities with career ambitions. Despite these challenges, each woman encourages Maria to keep pushing forward and to strive for leadership roles.

Step 4: The Climax – The day of the competition arrives, and Maria presents her project to the judges. She speaks confidently about her research, her findings, and her determination to make a difference. After the presentation, Maria waits nervously. When the results are announced, Maria is thrilled to learn she has won first place. Her hard work has paid off, and her victory is celebrated by her school and community.

Resolution: Maria's win is a turning point. She realizes that her journey is just beginning. She decides to start a club at her school dedicated to supporting girls interested in STEM. She invites women from the community to speak and mentor the students. Maria's club quickly becomes a source of inspiration and empowerment for many girls who once doubted their potential.

Ethos, Pathos, and Logos

Ethos: Maria's story builds credibility through her dedication and hard work, showing that she is a relatable and authentic role model.

Pathos: The story appeals to emotions, illustrating the struggles and triumphs of women in STEM, aiming to inspire and empower the audience.

Logos: By presenting factual challenges that women face and showing Maria's logical steps to overcome them, the story appeals to the audience's sense of reason.

Desired Audience Reaction

By the end of Maria's story, I want you, the high school girls, to feel inspired and confident in your abilities. Understand that while challenges exist, they are not insurmountable. Think about the impact you can have and know that you are capable of breaking barriers and achieving greatness in any field you choose. Believe in your potential to lead, innovate, and make a difference in the world.