

Listening for the Story of the Hero's Journey: A Celebrant's Role

by Stacy Willhoit

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SPRINGFIELD, Mo., USA -- My life's work as a celebrant—a person who officiates life milestone events such as weddings and funerals in a ceremonial manner—consists of equal parts action and the ability to be still and hold open a sacred space for the benefit of others. I employ active listening skills¹ to understand and bring to the forefront the beliefs and values of my clients in their ceremonies. I take an oath not to impose my own beliefs upon the ceremonies we create for their life events. At its core, a ceremony is the telling of the "hero's journey," moving people through transformative processes of life through participation with words, symbols, art, ritual, music, and other personally meaningful elements.

As a celebrant, I am often entrusted with personal and profoundly moving stories of events and situations that have shaped a **[SNIP – End of preview.]**