

# I Can't Go

**because reasons.** (Internet slang)  
Used to avoid specifying the **reasons** for something, perhaps **because** specifying them would be tangential to the point at hand, or perhaps the **reasons** are too many or too involved or too time consuming to specify, or perhaps **because** they are not sound or are not known to the speaker.

**Donnie Jeffrey, Juliana Wiens, and Karen Schaffer**  
**Career Services, Saint Mary's University**



# Saint Mary's University

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Student Services → Career Services

- → Career Counsellors
- Job Coaching
- Co-Curricular Record
- Employer Engagement





# Today's Session: Objectives

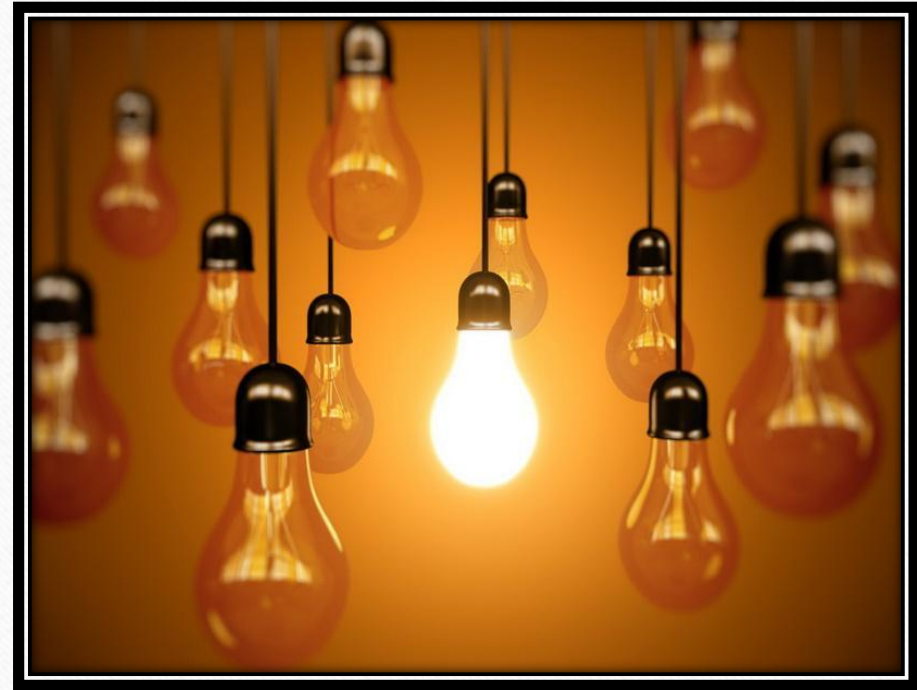
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- Provide context for our use of narrative-based research in career development
- Guide you through a “theming” exercise so that you can experience the stories we’ve collected
- Show you what we’re doing to translate Themes → Action



# Motivation

- The value of assessment
- The problem of missing information





# Why Research?

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- **Learn more** about:
  - How students engage with Career Counselling services on campus
  - The process through which students make decisions whether or not to access services
- **Improve services** (ultimate goal!)



# Why **Narrative** Research?

COMPLEX  
Questions  
& Problems

COMPLEXITY  
“Student Experience”  
“Career”



# COMPLEXITY

“Student Experience”  
“Career”

Traditional  
Research

Solves SIMPLE and  
COMPLICATED problems



Reinvigorated  
Perspectives, Ideas,  
Solutions

Narrative Research:  
Explores **COMPLEX**  
Questions & Problems



# Narrative Research: Data Collection

- Anecdote Circles: soliciting stories vs. gathering opinions
- Stories are written, then shared out loud





# Questions for Participants

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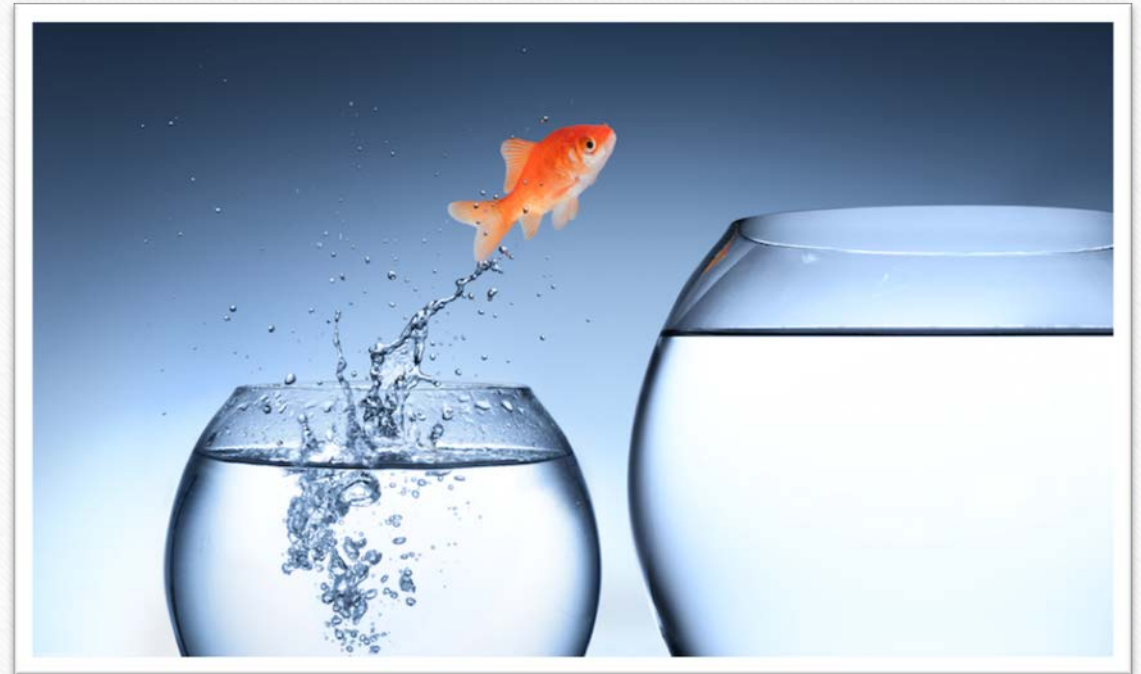
1. Imagine you are talking to a friend who is feeling lost about what they are doing at university. What specific experience could you share with them that might help?
2. What happened when you made or tried to make an appointment that was new to you?
3. What happened when you wanted to go to an event that you felt might have been important to your career and/or education and you ended up not going?
4. Tell us about a time when you accessed a service and it was different from what you expected.



# Narrative Research: Data Analysis

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- Theming – working with stories to uncover complexity
- Themes lead to deeper understanding, new ideas, change





“The universe is made of stories, not atoms.”  
- Muriel Rukeyser

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“The truth about stories is that’s all we are.”  
- Thomas King

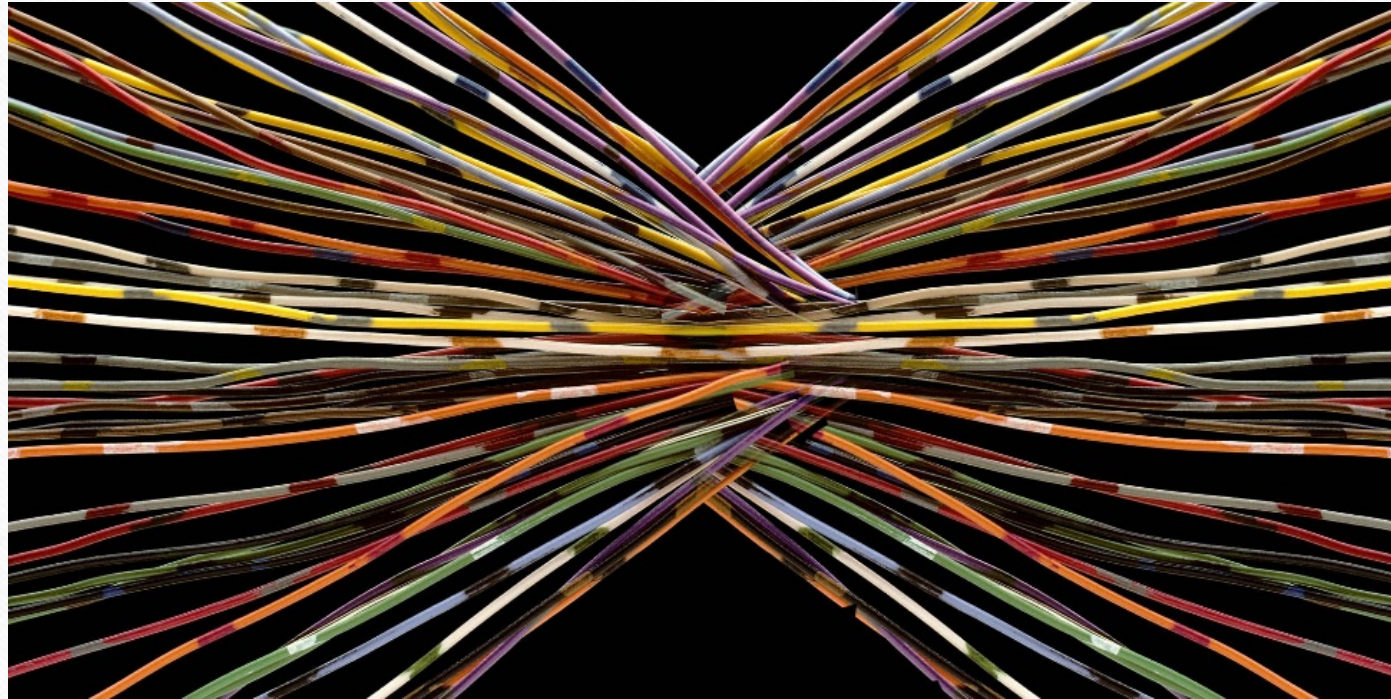




# Theming

*“What is the student/storyteller saying about the topic? What is the message?”*

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# “Reasons”: What Are They Really Saying?



**HALIFAX UNIVERSITIES**  
career fair

September 25th, 2018  
Cunard Centre, 961  
Marginal Rd  
10 AM - 4 PM

1. Connect with hundreds of local organizations
2. Learn about possible careers and opportunities
3. Get closer to your future career!

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITIES

halifaxcareerfair.ca

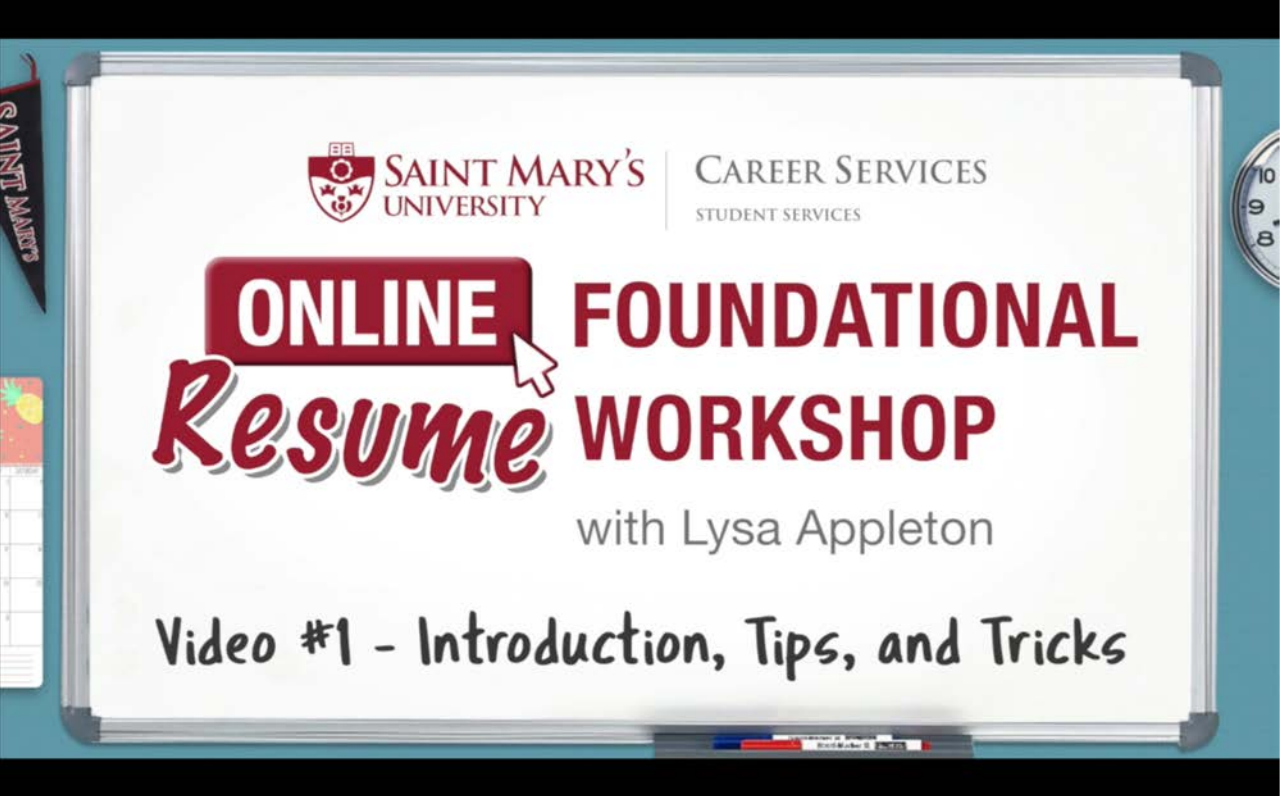
Twitter Facebook Instagram



# THEME

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- “There are no good choices”
- “I have to lose to gain”
- “Rock and a hard place”



The image shows a whiteboard with a blue border, set against a background of a desk with a clock and a calendar. The whiteboard contains the following text:

**SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY** | CAREER SERVICES  
STUDENT SERVICES

**ONLINE** **FOUNDATIONAL**  
*Resume* **WORKSHOP**

with Lysa Appleton

Video #1 - Introduction, Tips, and Tricks



THEME

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# The Domino Effect



**CAREER  
COUNSELLING**

Ever worry you'll make a bad choice in university and your whole career won't work out?

Come for a confidential career counselling appointment to find how to feel confident about your choices - and your career.

[SMU.CA/CAREER](http://SMU.CA/CAREER) - 902-420-5499



**THEME**

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**Career Mental  
Health**

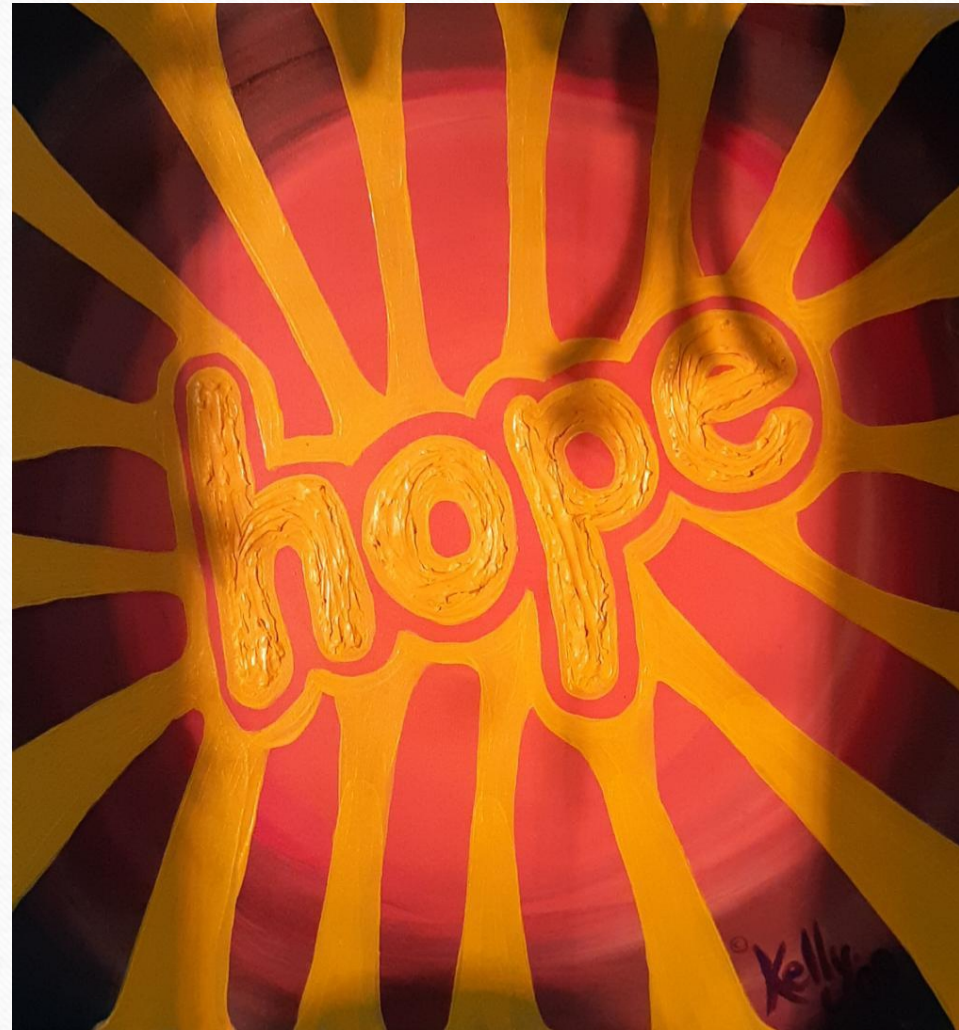




THEME

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Message of  
Hope





***Thank You***  
from Juliana, Donnie, and Karen!

**I Can't Go Because Reasons**

Please Evaluate our Session!  
We Value Your Feedback!

#cannexus19  
@smucareers