
S T O R Y E X A M P L E

Dear Minnesota,

My parents were born in Laos and lived in refugee camps in Thailand before moving to the United States. I was born in Minnesota. As a second-generation immigrant, I've always wanted to learn more about how our Hmong communities are doing around the world. In 2019, I had the opportunity to return to Thailand as a digital storytelling teacher where I joined a team of artists that facilitated activities for Hmong youth in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It was a transformational experience. Our Hmong communities that had been separated geographically by the ocean and historically by the war were reconnecting, sharing, and learning with each other.

For two weeks, our group learned how to use cameras and audio equipment, but also spent lots of time learning about stories; what makes a good story, but more importantly what stories did we have to tell the world. One story we shared and one of my biggest surprises I learned was our common struggle around finding ways to keep our language and culture alive. I had assumed that because this was part of the world where my parents were born, this would also be the place where our culture would live forever. I learned that we were both eager to learn more about how to connect to our Hmong identities.

We were able to express those feelings through media making! We produced many things together during those two weeks, mini-interviews, flipbooks, and photography. However, my favorite activity was one that I had learned when I was their age, stop motions! My experience helping others learn media making helped me connect to my Hmong community worldwide. Are there moments where you've felt connected to your places of origin while watching a movie, cartoon, or documentary?

Sincerely,

Kevin

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S O C I A L M E D I A S T O R Y E X A M P L E

How your letter may appear when we present it on social media

Moving Lives Minnesota added 8 new photos to the album: Kevin Yang.
Published by Kevin Yang [?] · 2 hrs · 🌐

MLMN Insta Story Template

Dear Minnesota

KEVIN YANG
he, him
Brooklyn Park, MN

2nd Generation
Minnesota and Southeast Asia

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Kevin Yang
8 Photos

Instagram

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