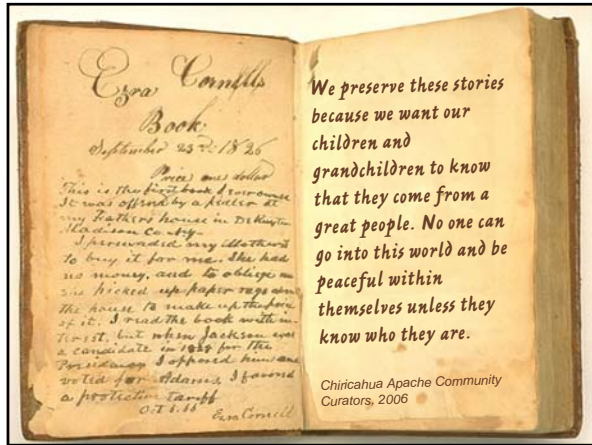


Our elders have created for us a sacred way of being in the universe. It is our responsibility to pass this understanding on to the next generation.

Tessie Naranjo
(Pueblo of Santa Clara), 2001



We preserve these stories because we want our children and grandchildren to know that they come from a great people. No one can go into this world and be peaceful within themselves unless they know who they are.

Chiricahua Apache Community
Curators, 2006

Have Fun!

1. Fun happens when one has prepared fully, to the point of making storytelling natural, second nature.
2. Know the story and hone skills to the point of confidence.
3. Even serious presentations should be fun to do and ultimately informal.
4. Enjoy!

Know the Material Thoroughly & Personally

1. One must know the text well, whether memorized word-for-word or presented extemporaneously.
2. A thoroughly learned story will eliminate the effects of any distractions or disturbances in the room.

Know the Material Thoroughly & Personally

3. A well-learned presentation allows one to adjust to diverse venues, audiences, etc. without becoming “lost” in the presentation.
4. Personalize the story, making it one’s own; be affected by the story; otherwise, why tell it?
5. The story should become the modern storyteller’s as much as the original storyteller’s.

Know the Material Thoroughly & Personally

6. Only information that is *personally* meaningful and important is confidently memorized and made believable to the audience.
7. “. . . memorize truth.”—David Short. Don’t simply memorize words or a story. All oral tradition is about presenting truth as one is personally convicted of it.
