

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Go to www.tellingthestoryproject.org

This website is all about farmers telling their stories. Most stories are tragic in some way and there is always a message at the end. This assignment is meant to have you think about a farm near you. Maybe you live or work on a farm. Maybe you have a friend or a relative that does. Many of these stories show how dangerous agriculture can be for people of all ages.

Go to Steph's Page. Check out the pictures first; don't read yet:

1. What do you think the danger is?

Now go back and read the story.

2. What is the sound of a shortcut?
3. What did Steph do that was a shortcut?
4. Write down 3 things Steph could have done differently to prevent the outcome:
5. Steph said, "I didn't anticipate the range of consequences; I recognized only 'I might fall,' not 'I might fall and ... break a bone, have to go to the hospital, have to do everything with only one hand,'" Think about a time you took a shortcut or risk without thinking through the range of consequences. What happened to you?



6. Steph continues to say: “Over eight weeks, I learned how frustrating it is to have only one arm and hand that works. I thought about a friend who has farmed his whole life with just one arm; about a friend who fell off a 10-foot step ladder and broke only his ribs (he was lucky); about a woman who told me about her husband’s fatal fall injury.” Who do you know that has a permanent injury that they have to live with because of an unnecessary risk they took? Write about the risk and how they now live life differently.

7. Does your perception of risk take into account all the possible consequences and outcomes?

Be ready to discuss in class: Will the shortcut be worth it, or will it take you on a detour you hadn’t planned?

8. On the bottom half of this page you have two options:
 - a. Write a farm story about a tragedy that you know about and how it could have been prevented.
 - b. Number 5 asks about a risk you took and asks what happened to you. What could you have done to prevent the outcome, or if you were lucky and nothing happened what could you have done to make it a little less risky in the first place?

Be ready to discuss Steph’s story tomorrow in class. If you finish and the class isn’t over yet, you should go back to the main page and read some of the other stories!

