



My Town: The Narrative

Ben Winchester, Rural Sociologist



Ben's work and research focuses on understanding the trends and experiences of newcomers to rural communities. He shares his research and experiences in hopes of rewriting the rural narrative for the future.

Rural Narrative



These are key points and insights I want to remember and/or share with others...

Rural Migration



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ACTIVITY: Interviews

In pairs Take turns interviewing each other using these questions:

If you have moved to the community where you now live...	If you have always lived in your current community...
1. When did you move here? Have you lived in the community before?	1. Describe your connection to the community where you live?
2. What push factors were at work? Were there things pushing you away from where you lived before?	2. Are there push factors that are (or might be) nudging you to move to another community? If yes, what are those factors?
3. What pull factors were at work? Were there things that pulled you towards your new destination?	3. Are there pull factors that would entice you to consider moving towards a new destination?
4. When you chose to move to this community, which factors were important for your household? Why? <i>Choose the top three to five from the list below.</i>	4. If you needed to move from your current community, which factors would be most important for your household? Why? <i>Choose the top three to five from the list below.</i>

- to live closer to relatives
- to live closer to friends
- to find higher quality schools
- to find lower priced housing
- to buy available land
- to find a lower cost of living
- to find a safer place to live
- to find a good environment for children
- to take advantage of a slower pace of life
- to live in a smaller community

- to live in a larger community
- to live among people with similar values
- to find a less congested place
- to live to find a higher paying job
- to find a job that matches my skills
- to find a better job for my spouse/partner
- to find a job for better work-life balance
- to take a new job to buy/begin a business
- to retire

Rural Leadership



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Rural Housing

These are key points and insights I want to remember and/or share with others...



Personal Reflection and Action

What's is the narrative like in your community?

What can I do to build a positive narrative?

Use Your Strengths: What are we good at?