Title: Narrative slope as a predictor of work and other occupational participation
Authors: Levin, Kielhofner, Braveman, & Fogg

Major Finding: A more positive narrative slope was predictive of a higher likelihood of employment or engagement in productive activity.

Participants:
- A total of 65 individuals from 5 supportive-living facilities for adults living with HIV/AIDS were included in this study. All participants had a primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS.
- 52 male and 13 female individuals ranging in age from 24-59 years (mean age 42.5 years) participated in this study.

Method: All study participants were administered a semi-structured interview of the OPHI-II. Interviews were audiotaped and tapes were used as a reference when constructing the narrative slopes. Additionally, participants were asked closed-ended questions to determine employment status and level of engagement in other productive activities at discharge, 3 months, 6 months, and 9 months post involvement.

Analysis: Demographic data were analyzed using Chi-squared statistics associated with contingency tables. Kendall’s tau-b (correlation coefficient) was used to determine the relationship between narrative slope and employment status.

Findings:
- Variables of age, gender, level of education, recent work history, current work status, history of mental illness, history of substance abuse, and level of impairment did not relate to current employment status.
- Narrative slope was positively correlated with employment status at discharge, 3 months, and 6 months post involvement.
- Narrative slope was positively correlated with engagement in productive activity at discharge and 3 months post involvement.

Conclusion: The findings of this study indicate that the way a person views and narrates their current occupational life will influence their future choices and actions regarding employment and engagement in productive activity.

Implications for future research: Future studies on a larger and more heterogeneous sample would help determine the usefulness of narrative slopes in predicting return to work for the greater population.

Evidence-based practice implications:
- If an individual has a regressive narrative slope, the therapist should avoid activities that risk failure in order to avoid decreases in self-efficacy and volition and to preserve the therapeutic relationship.
- The OPHI-II is an assessment tool that is relevant in assessing vocational outcomes and predicting return to work.