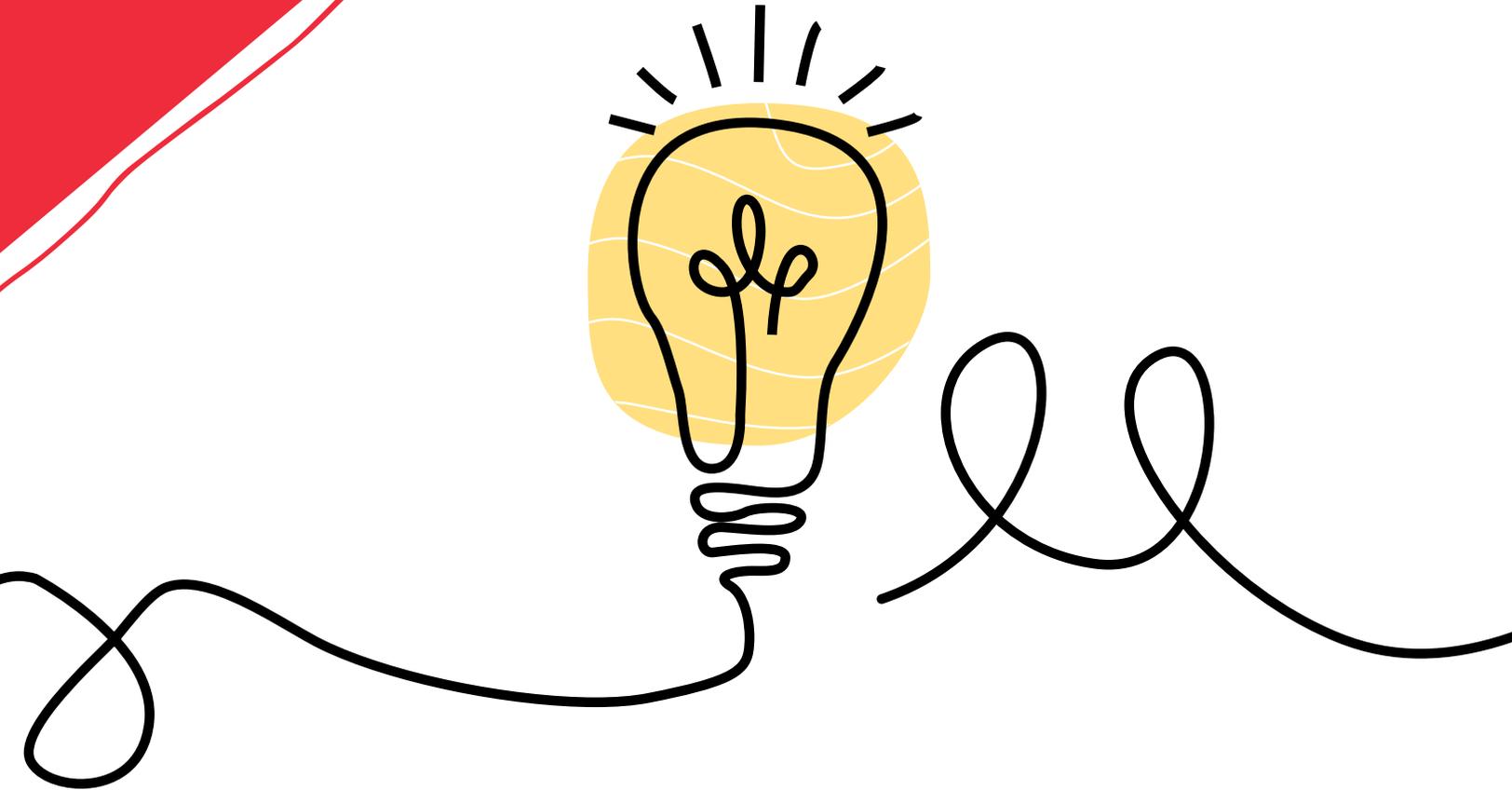


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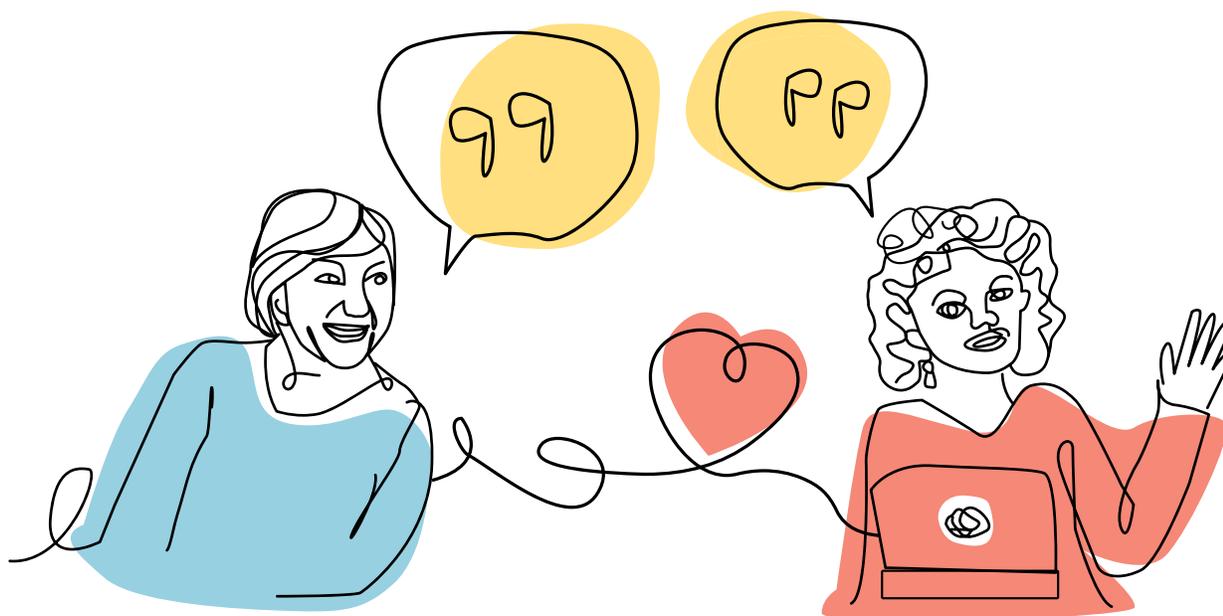


**ACTIVITIES FOR  
EXPLORING THE  
STORYCORPS  
ARCHIVE**



**The act of interviewing is a valuable experience that allows each of us to practice listening, and to share the diverse stories of those we love.**

However, the interviews we record also open up a window of infinite creative possibilities! These activities are designed to help you explore the vast StoryCorps Archive, find interviews that are meaningful to you, and build something new using the stories you discover.



## Activity 1: Find your Favorites & Build a Collection

*Length: Short*

Interview collections are a great way to help organize interviews by topic, time period, place, event, or other major category. Follow the guidelines below to create a collection of interviews based on your own interests.

- ✓ Choose a topic that is important or interesting to you.
- ✓ Search for interviews on the topic you've chosen.
- ✓ Once you've found one or more interviews, use the "add to favorites" and "save to collection" features to preserve these stories for later listening.

### BONUS ACTIVITY

Record an interview related to your favorite topic, or create a custom keyword to tag all of the interviews in your collection.



## Activity 2: Interview Scavenger Hunt

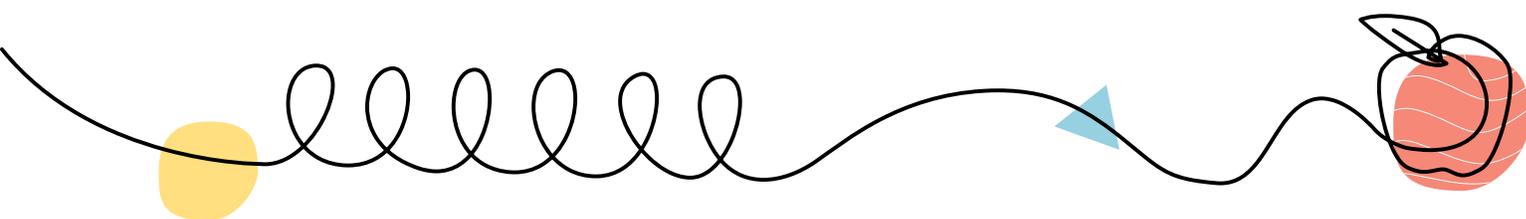
*Length: Medium*

Use the StoryCorps Archive to locate interviews that fit each type. Add the interviews to your list of favorites as you go along.

- ✓ An interview that features your hometown.
- ✓ An interview that is about an important event in American history.
- ✓ An interview in a language other than English.
- ✓ An interview that features your favorite sport.
- ✓ An interview that is about a topic about which you'd like to know more.

### BONUS ACTIVITY

Record an interview using StoryCorps Connect, inspired by one of the interviews you heard.



## Activity 3: Food for Thought

*Length: Medium*

While each of our stories is unique, there is one thing many of us share in common — a love of food! With this activity, you'll get to explore how food plays a part in each of our narratives, and learn something new along the way.

- ✓ Using the keywords section of the left menu, find interviews about food or cooking. (Example searches: recipe, cooking, food)
- ✓ Listen to an interview that discusses cuisines, traditions, or other food-related topics that are unfamiliar or different from your own.
- ✓ Use the keywords section to find another interview that discusses similar food topics to the ones you've just learned about.

### BONUS ACTIVITY

Look up recipes that were either mentioned in the interviews you uncovered, or are from the same cuisine. If you have the ingredients and equipment, make one of these recipes and share it with friends and family.



## Activity 4: In Their Shoes

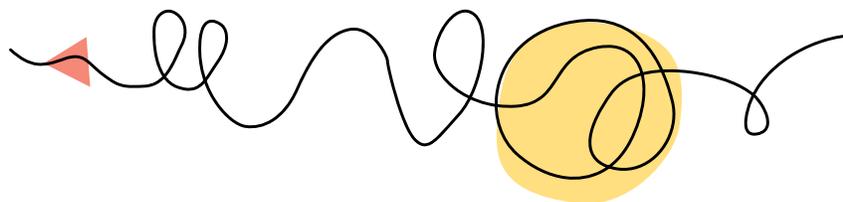
*Length: Long*

There are hundreds of questions you can ask a person, and hundreds of ways an interview can go. For this activity, find an interview that interests you and listen to all of it (feel free to split up your listening time). Then, complete the tasks below to consider how your interview experience might have been similar or different.

- ✓ Were there any questions asked that you really liked? Write these questions down.
- ✓ Were there any questions you would have asked that were not included in the interview? Write these questions down.
- ✓ Look at the keywords that were used to describe the interview. Were there any keywords that you think should be added?
- ✓ Draw a picture of something discussed in the interview, and write a short reflection on how it relates to a person, event, or thing in your own life.

### BONUS ACTIVITY

Use your questions, keywords, or reflection as the basis of a new StoryCorps Connect interview.



## Activity 5: Citizen Journalism

*Length: Long*

With hundreds of interviews housed in the Archive, it's not uncommon to find ones that discuss the same topic. For this activity, you will take on the role of a journalist, and use the Archive to research a topic of your choosing. Complete the activity by following these steps:

- ✓ Select a topic or event that you'd like to explore in the StoryCorps Archive.
- ✓ Using the search box, locate five interviews related to this topic.
- ✓ Using the "subject log," locate segments of the interview that are related to the topic at hand.
- ✓ Write a short article that uses quotes from each interview to tell the story of the event or topic you've chosen.

### BONUS ACTIVITY

Write a set of questions based on your research and interview someone about your topic.



## Activity 6: Keyword Maze

Length: Long

Keywords help us organize and discover interviews within the Archive. They also help connect each story with the stories of others across the country. In this exercise, you're going to test those keyword connections and see how far they take you! Complete this activity by following the instructions below:

- ✓ Find an interview that interests you. Write down what the interview is about, and why you find it interesting.
- ✓ Click on one of the interview's keywords to see other interviews with the same keyword. (Start tracking your steps now.)
- ✓ Click on one of these interviews. Then, click on one of its keywords (choose one that's different from your previous choice).
- ✓ Repeat 8 more times, so you've viewed a total of 10 different interviews with 10 different keywords.
  - See how far you can get from the first interview's topic, and write down the steps you took to get there.
  - Did you reach any "dead ends" where only one interview had the keyword you chose? Retrace your steps backward, documenting as you go along.

### BONUS ACTIVITIES

- Copy and paste the descriptions of the first and last interviews into a new document. What do they have in common? How are they different?
- Listen to a few minutes of each interview. Based on what you heard, what other topics would you add as keywords?
- Some keywords are more frequently used than others. Track how many interviews are listed next to each keyword. Which has the most? The fewest? Why do you think that might be?

