

CELEBRATE THE #CLASSOF2020 WITH STORYCORPS

If this pandemic shows us anything, it's that there is no script for life. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't still take the time to celebrate hard-earned achievements and milestones. Record your story — and the stories of those you love — with StoryCorps. Interviews are archived at the Library of Congress, becoming part of American history.

BEFORE YOU START

Do your homework. Most participants are able to get through about six questions during a 40-minute interview. Select six to eight questions from the lists below. Keep in mind that sometimes the best questions are the ones that you've always wanted to ask, so feel free to add a few of your own.

Begin with both participants introducing themselves:

PARTICIPANT 1:

My name is (name). I am (age) years old. Today is (date), and I'm speaking with (partner's name), who is my (relationship). I am recording this interview in (place, city, state; e.g., "my home in Nome, Alaska").

PARTICIPANT 2:

My name is (name). I am (age) years old. Today is (date), and I'm speaking with (partner's name), who is my (relationship). I am recording this interview in (place, city, state; e.g., "my home in Nome, Alaska").

QUESTIONS FOR A CONVERSATION BETWEEN STUDENTS (PICK UP TO 8)

- Who were you when you started high school/college? Who are you now? Who helped you get there?
- How have these last months of senior year been different than you imagined they'd be?
- What is your best memory of me?
- Of the events we're missing, which are you saddest about and why?
- What was your most difficult time in high school/college? Your happiest time?
- So much of senior year is spent focused on "the next step" — those "next steps" may have changed. How has this affected your post-graduation plans? How have your expectations changed?
- Is there a teacher or a class in particular that meant a lot to you?
- Have you learned anything from living through the pandemic? Have there been any positives?
- What high school/college memory do you think will stick with you the longest?
- Is there any message you want to give to the graduating class? To the school?
- Can you tell me about one of the funniest moments you can think of from the last four years?
- Is there anything I didn't ask you about that you'd like to talk about?
- Someday your great-great-grandkids will listen to this — is there any message you want to pass on to them?

QUESTIONS FOR A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A STUDENT AND TEACHER/MENTOR/PARENT (PICK UP TO 8)

- What made you want to become a teacher?
- What was high school like for you?
- Did you have a favorite teacher in high school? Tell me about him/her.
- What has living through this pandemic meant to you? Has it changed you? Have you learned any lessons from it?
- Is there any message you want to give to the graduating class?
- What's your favorite memory of me?
- Do you have any advice for me?
- What do you think my future holds?
- What are your dreams for me?
- Is there anything I didn't ask you about that you'd like to talk about?
- Turn the table — tell your teacher what they've meant to you.

CHECKLIST FOR INTERVIEW DAY

- Prepare your questions in advance: write down or print a copy of questions you'd like to ask. Be prepared to go off script and ask follow-up questions!
- Invite your partner to record on StoryCorps Connect by sharing a private link to your recording session. Pro tip: You'll need a login to start.
- Begin the interview by introducing yourself and your partner. State the location, date, and year where and when you are conducting the interview. Example: *My name is Abraham Lincoln. Today is May 17, 2020 and I am talking with my friend Frederick Douglass.*
- After you record, enter your summary, title, and keywords and take a photo with your partner when prompted by the app. Don't forget to use the keyword #CLASSOF2020 and the name of your local public radio station.
- Thank your partner for sharing their story with you. Share your interview on social media and tag #Classof2020 and @StoryCorps!



WHAT IS STORYCORPS?

Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has given people of all backgrounds and beliefs, in thousands of towns and cities in all 50 states, the chance to record interviews about their lives. We preserve the recordings in our archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Today, it is the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered.