#VeteransVoices
Educational Resources

with support from Google
StoryCorps, Google, and YouTube have partnered to celebrate and honor the millions of brave individuals who have served and are currently serving to protect our nation.

We encourage you to listen to their stories, sit down with a veteran in your life today to record your own using the StoryCorps app, or help us spread the word.

These materials are for educators and students who wish to do a #VeteransVoices project in their own classroom.
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Special Considerations for Conversations with Veterans

**Sound:** Make sure you choose an interview location that is quiet and secure. It is best to let the participant know what the setup of the space will be for the interview location ahead of time. Because some veterans can be sensitive to sound, it’s best not to conduct interviews somewhere without loud or sudden loud noises. This is good practice for all recorded interviews.

**Time:** StoryCorps interviews are generally 40 minutes, but it is best to let the participant know that they can stop the interview or leave at anytime. Let the participants know they are in control of the time. If the interview goes over the agreed upon time, let the veteran know and ask them if they are comfortable with staying longer.

**Movement:** Sudden movements can be problematic for veterans with PTSD. Ask a veteran before the interview if they are sensitive to sounds, lights, sudden movements, etc. When moving around the room to setup equipment or adjust the furniture try to let the participant know what you are doing and where you are moving. For example, if you are moving something behind the veteran you can say: “I am going to move this chair from behind you to give you more room.” Try not to make sudden movements without letting the participant know what you are doing.
A good rule of thumb when interviewing veterans is to allow them to choose the questions/topics they are willing to discuss. Allow the participant to omit questions they do not wish to be asked during the interview from a suggested question list by providing the veteran with a list before the interview. This will allow them time to review the material and communicate any topics that may be off limits for them.

Give the participant time to adjust to the interview space. Ask them to come to the interview space a few minutes early so they can get comfortable with their surroundings before beginning the interview. Discuss the questions before starting. Clarify that the participant does not have to answer any questions they do not wish to discuss, even if they topic is not listed. Do not push a topic: When interviewing anyone it is best to respect their boundaries and let them control the conversation. This creates trust in the interview and will make for a much better conversation.
Featured Stories from Veterans

Click to hear featured stories!

1st Squad, 3rd Platoon
Germans in the Woods
The Last Viewing
The Nature of War
Tom's War
Great Questions for Veterans

Early Days in the Service
What do you remember about the day you enlisted?
How did you tell your family and friends that you were joining the military?
How did you imagine military life before you joined?

Deployment
Where did you serve during the war?
If you deployed overseas, how did you tell your loved ones you were being deployed?
How did you change?
Can you describe how you felt coming home from combat?

Friendships/Fun Memories
Is there someone you served with that you remember fondly?
Can you tell me about him/her?
Did you ever learn something about a fellow service member that surprised you?

Transitioning To Civilian Life
When did you leave the military?
Was there anything or anyone that helped you during the transition from military to civilian life?
Is there anything you wish civilians understood about military service?

For an extended question list, visit https://storycorps.org/greatquestionsforveterans
Privacy & Consent To Be Recorded

Interviews recorded using the StoryCorps App can be added to a collection of recordings at the American Folklife Center and the Library of Congress. The Library is the nation’s first established cultural institution and the largest library in the world, with millions of items, including books, recordings, photographs, maps, and manuscripts, in its collections.

StoryCorps offers you and someone you know the unique opportunity to create a new record and preserve it as part of the Library’s collections for generations to come.

It is important to communicate with your interview subject about this option and to determine if it is right for them.

After your interview, discuss these privacy setting options with your partner:

1. Choose to publish the interview and photo. Both will appear on the StoryCorps website and be transmitted to the Library of Congress.

2. Choose to not publish the interview. Use our Help Center (support.storycorps.me) to export the recording to your computer.

There are three privacy options when publishing your interview:

1. Everyone: Your interview and related information are available to anyone on the web.

2. Archive Users: Your interview and related information are available to anyone with an account on the StoryCorps Archive.

3. Only You: Your interview and related information are private.

If you change your mind after recording, you can remove your interview from public view by logging into your account at archive.storycorps.org and changing your setting to private.
Extra Credit

**Share** your interviews with us @StoryCorps with the tag #VeteransVoices.

**Listen** to your interview again.

**Watch** the Veterans' Stories playlist with your family at home, and then share some of the stories that make your family unique (use the app to record the conversation, if you like!).

**Write** a reflection paper, a follow-up essay, or a poem inspired by your interview.

**Transcribe** a part of your interview, and/or use quotes from your interview to support another project or research paper.

**Create** a video inspired by a TED talk with Adobe Spark Video based on the process of preparing for and conducting an interview and present it to the class.

**Edit** your interview using free editing software (such as Audacity) to create a two-minute excerpt.

**Produce** a podcast using excerpts from different interviews.

**Create** a visual storyboard of the process of preparing for and conducting the interview, plus what was learned, and present it to the class.

**Draw or paint** a portrait of your partner inspired by your interview with them.

**Hold** an assembly to highlight favorite stories from your class.

**Use the app** to investigate a social issue in your community (make a list of sources you’d like to interview).

**Coordinate** with your school or local library to start an oral history project.
How to Use Your Smartphone to Make History

Getting Started/Using a Smartphone to Record

You will need access to a smartphone (iPhone or Android) or Kindle Fire tablet and to download the free StoryCorps App.

You must be 13 or over to use the app; if you are under 18, you need parental consent to create an account on the StoryCorps app.

Your StoryCorps App account and password will be the same for logging into the StoryCorps Archive at archive.storycorps.org, a public website where published interviews can be found online. If you decide to publish your interview, this is where it will go.

Download the app, register for an account with parental permission, record and publish a 10-second test, and log in to your StoryCorps Archive account from a desktop computer to view your test online. You will receive an email from StoryCorps when your file has uploaded.

Experiment with editing the title, summary, and keywords of a test interview from a desktop computer or your app.
Planning for your interview

Once you’ve tested your device, you’re almost ready to record! Prepare your questions and read through the checklist below before the big day so that you know what to expect.

The StoryCorps App has a built-in timer and question selection mechanism.

You can follow the prompts in the app or use your worksheets as a guide during your conversation.

Prepare your questions in advance, but be ready to ask follow-up questions and go “off script” if you hear something interesting.

Try to find a quiet place to conduct your interview. Ask your partner for permission to record them before you start.

Begin your recording by introducing yourself, and ask your partner to introduce themselves. State the location, date, and year where and when you are conducting the interview (e.g., “Today is November 24, 2018, and we are in Grandpa’s living room in Lexington, KY”). The app will prompt you to take a picture with your partner.

If you’d prefer, you can take a picture of an old photograph of your partner or a piece of paper with the interview date on it.
Click to watch a video about a 19-year-old YouTube creator named Andy Fancher who has interviewed over 70 World War II veterans.