



## **STORYCORPS® USAGE POLICIES**

StoryCorps' mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives. StoryCorps only allows use of material for noncommercial purposes including education, and research.

### **I. OWNERSHIP**

#### **Who owns the interviews recorded by StoryCorps?**

The release form that the interview participant signs at the beginning of his/her interview transfers all title and literary property rights over to StoryCorps. It names StoryCorps as owners of the copyright over the recording; StoryCorps therefore owns the right to reproduce, distribute, publicly perform and/or display the recording, and make derivative works of the recording.

While StoryCorps owns the audio recording, we do not own anyone's story. Each participant is free to tell his or her story in anyway that they like. StoryCorps only owns the audio, which was recorded by StoryCorps.

### **II. INTERVIEW FILES**

The CD or hard drive on which you will receive interviews from StoryCorps may also contain the release forms participants sign, and other associated paperwork. In order to maintain confidentiality of our participants, you may not share these documents with anyone. And most importantly, you may not share the participants' contact information with anyone.

### **III. COPIES OF THE INTERVIEW**

#### **Can I ask a participant to give me a copy of his/her interview even though StoryCorps owns the copyright?**

Yes. StoryCorps participants are free to make copies for their friends, families, and your organization, if they so choose. We hope that interview participants are excited to share their experience by inviting others to listen to it.

### **IV. PRODUCTION**

#### **Can we edit or have someone edit the interviews?**

Yes, you can edit the interview or hire a third party to do so provided that it complies with the following:

- A. If posted on the Internet, in a format that users are unable to download but that permits Internet streaming of the Edited Segment;
- B. Not to exceed 8 minutes in length, StoryCorps recommends segments of about 3 minutes;
- C. Cohesive, telling a particular story or sticking to a defined theme;
- D. Representative of the substance, structure and feel of the Released Interview;
- E. Presented in a manner that shows care and an intent to honor the source material; and

- F. Any hard facts mentioned in the Edited Segment should be confirmed. Generally, the producer/editor will do the fact checking, as they should have experience with this.
- G. Accompanied by the following credit language or alternative language approved by StoryCorps, “Produced by [INSERT NAME OF PRODUCER] with interviews recorded by StoryCorps, a national nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives. [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org)”

### **Can we create a compilation CD using StoryCorps interviews?**

Yes, you can create a compilation CD using StoryCorps interviews provided that:

- A. You do not use the StoryCorps’ name or logo in such a way that it appears that the CD was created or endorsed by StoryCorps.
- B. Credit is given to StoryCorps for the interviews. Please prominently display, “Produced by [INSERT PRODUCER’S NAME] from interviews recorded by StoryCorps, a national nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives. [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org)”
- C. You provide StoryCorps with a copy of the CD.
- D. The CD cannot be sold. The CD can however, be distributed as a gift or as a premium for a fundraiser.

### **What if the CD that we want to create only uses a couple of StoryCorps stories, do the same restrictions of use apply?**

If the CD that you would like to create will contain StoryCorps stories, which make up less than 30% of the material on the CD, then the following applies:

- A. You do not use StoryCorps’ name or logo in such a way that it appears that the CD was created or endorsed by StoryCorps.
- B. StoryCorps approves the interviews that will be used on the CD.
- C. Credit is given to StoryCorps for the interviews. Please prominently display, “Produced by [INSERT PRODUCER’S NAME] from interviews recorded at StoryCorps, a national nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives. [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org)”
- D. You provide StoryCorps with a copy of the CD.
- E. The CD can be sold provided that the proceeds from the sale are used to support the nonprofit mission of the organization. CD’s can never be sold to support a commercial purpose or a for-profit company.

### **Can we use interviews to create a documentary film?**

Yes, the same restrictions for creating a compilation CD apply to creating a documentary film, however, a documentary film using StoryCorps interviews cannot be sold without permission from StoryCorps. Additionally, for a film that will be distributed beyond your local community, you must obtain explicit permission from StoryCorps. For example, if you are interested in creating film that will be entered into film festivals or broadcast on a network, you must enter into a formal agreement with StoryCorps.

### **Can we use interviews in an animation?**

For use in an animation, additional permission is required from StoryCorps.

### **Can we create a podcast of the interviews?**

Yes, you can create a podcast for your organization, provided that it is used for noncommercial purposes and you use the appropriate crediting language. For example, a nonprofit organization is welcome to include an interview as part of its regular podcasts, however, an organization may not use a podcast for recruiting or advertising etc.

## **V. WEB POSTING**

### **Can we post excerpts of interviews on our organization's website?**

Yes, you can post excerpts of interviews on your organization's website (please see Section IV above), provided that the website is for noncommercial use. For example, a nonprofit organization's website, and a web page educating the public regarding a particular issue are great examples of how an interview can be posted. Interviews cannot be used for recruiting, advertising, or promoting a commercial cause.

StoryCorps does not permit posting full interviews in order to protect the privacy of our participants. Please see Section IV for more information regarding editing an interview.

## **VI. EXHIBITIONS AND EDUCATIONAL USES**

### **Can we use excerpts of the interviews for exhibitions or educational presentations?**

Yes, you can use excerpts for exhibitions or educational presentations. Please see Section IV for more information about editing an interview.

## **VII. TRANSCRIPTS AND WRITTEN PUBLICATIONS**

### **Can we publish a book or other publication using transcripts of StoryCorps interviews?**

Yes, you can create a book or other publication using StoryCorps transcripts provided that:

- A. You only use excerpts of interviews and not full-length interviews.
- B. You do not use StoryCorps' name or logo in such a way that it appears that the publication was created or endorsed by StoryCorps. You do not design the publication so that it could be confused with any StoryCorps publication such as, *Listening is an Act of Love* or *Mom*.
- C. Any hard facts mentioned in the transcripts should be confirmed.
- D. Credit is given to StoryCorps for the interviews, "These interviews are provided courtesy of StoryCorps, a national nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds

and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives.  
www.storycorps.org”

- E. You provide StoryCorps with a copy of the publication.
- F. The book or publication cannot be sold. The book or publication can however, be distributed as a gift or used as a gift/premium for a fundraiser.

**What if the book or publication that we want to create only uses a couple of transcripts of StoryCorps interviews, do the same restrictions of use apply?**

If the book or publication that you would like to create will contain StoryCorps interviews, which make up less than 30% of the material in the publication, the following applies:

- A. You only use excerpts of interviews and not full-length interviews.
- B. You do not use our name or logo in such a way that it appears that the publication was created or endorsed by StoryCorps. You do not design the publication so that it could be confused with at StoryCorps publication such as, “Listening is an Act of Love.”
- C. StoryCorps approves the interviews that will be used in the publication.
- D. Credit is given to StoryCorps for the interviews, “These interviews are provided courtesy of StoryCorps, a national nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives.  
www.storycorps.org”
- E. You provide StoryCorps with a copy of the publication.
- F. The book or publication can be sold *provided that* the distribution of the book or publication is within your local community or organization’s network only and that the proceeds from the sale are used to support the nonprofit mission of the organization. Books and publications cannot be sold to support a commercial purpose or for-profit company.

## **VIII. FUNDRAISING**

### **Can we use interviews for fundraising purposes?**

As stated above, you can use interviews to create a CD or publication that can be used as a gift or premium at a fundraiser. If you have other ideas for how you would like to use the material to fundraise, please contact StoryCorps.

## **IX. BROADCASTING**

### **Can we broadcast interviews on a radio program?**

You can partner with public, local radio stations to broadcast interviews. Please provide StoryCorps with appropriate credit for the interviews.

If you would like to partner with a radio station with a national audience, you must obtain approval from StoryCorps and obtain approval for the interviews you would like to broadcast..

## **X. ARCHIVE**

### **Can we maintain an archive of the interviews?**

Yes, you'll have to enter into a signed Agreement with StoryCorps, which will outline how the archive can be used. Once all of the interviews in which you are interested have been recorded, and we have a signed Archive Agreement, we will transfer the interviews (including log sheets, release forms and photos) onto a hard drive or CD and send it to you.

### **Can we make this archive accessible to the public?**

Yes. You can set this archive up to allow for public listening, at any site maintained by your organization. This will be covered in more detail in the Archive Agreement.

## **XI. PHOTOS**

StoryCorps takes digital photos of the interview participants as part of the interview experience. You can use these photos in the same ways that you can use the interviews as stated in the above policies.

## **XII. OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM STORYCORPS**

If you are unsure whether a particular use of the interviews is permitted, have other ideas of how you would like to use the interviews, or would like to obtain permission from StoryCorps, please fill out the inquiry form, "Request Permission to Use StoryCorps Material" at [www.storycorps.org/about/inquiries](http://www.storycorps.org/about/inquiries).