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 Online 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 about a topic you would like to know more about.

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 (sample searches: “recipes,” “cooking,” and “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: EXPLORE A STORYCORPS INITIATIVE
Length: Medium

Use the StoryCorps Online Archive to learn more about interviews collected as part of one of our national initiatives.

✔ Take some time to review the list of StoryCorps initiatives at storycorps.org/discover and choose one that interests you.

✔ After accessing the Online Archive at archive.storycorps.org, click on the “Interviews” tab in the top-level navigation bar.

✔ Scroll down to locate the “Initiatives” search facet in the left-hand navigation bar.

✔ Select an Initiative. For example, “Griot” or “Historias.”

✔ Once you’ve accessed the entire Initiative, use additional search functions to narrow your search to interviews that interest you.

ACTIVITY 5: HOMETOWN HEROS
Length: Long

Use the StoryCorps Online Archive to find stories that feature your hometown or area.

✔ After accessing the Online Archive at archive.storycorps.org, click on the “Interviews” tab in the top-level navigation bar.

✔ Enter the name of your hometown or area into the search bar. You can also use landmarks or nearby attractions.

✔ Your hometown may share a name with a different city or town. Use the “Places” search along the left side of the page to find the stories nearest to you.

    ➔ If you’re unable to find an interview that features your hometown or area, listen to a story that features a town or city of the same name.

✔ Choose a story to listen to based on your interest in the description and keywords.

✔ Write a reflection on how the lives of the people in the interview are similar and different to yours.

BONUS ACTIVITY
If you know any of the participants who have done a StoryCorps interview, ask them to do a follow-up interview about your hometown. Or interview your own hometown hero about your town.
ACTIVITY 6: LISTEN, PLAY OR COMPOSE
Length: Long

Use the StoryCorps Online Archive to explore interviews about music and musical instruments.

✔ After accessing the Online Archive at archive.storycorps.org, click on the “Interviews” tab in the top-level navigation bar.

✔ Using the Keywords section of the left menu, search for interviews that talk about music. Select the “More” link at the bottom of the Keywords section. In the search bar, type in music and then hit the “Filter” button to the right of the search bar.

→ What kind of music do you listen to? Jazz, classical, rock, folk, country, blues? Select one type of music from the list and then hit “Update Query” in the bottom right and explore interviews related to that type of music.

→ Or explore something new! Interested in learning more about chamber music? Select “chamber music” in keywords and explore.

✔ Do you like to play music as much as you like listening to music? Do you want to explore interviews that talk about drums, the guitar, or the piano? Type an instrument in the Keyword search and see what you find.

✔ Do you want to hear interviews about composing songs? Use the Keywords “composing songs” to explore.

BONUS ACTIVITY
Did your exploration of music in the Online Archive inspire an interest in a new type of music? Do you have a friend or family member that also loves music? Tell us about it by recording an interview on StoryCorps Connect!

ACTIVITY 7: 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 8: CITIZEN JOURNALISM
Length: Long

With hundreds of interviews housed in the Online 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 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 9: KEYWORD MAZE

Length: Long

Keywords help us organize and discover interviews within the Online 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 eight 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 ACTIVITY

⇒ 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?