

Sara Ratliff

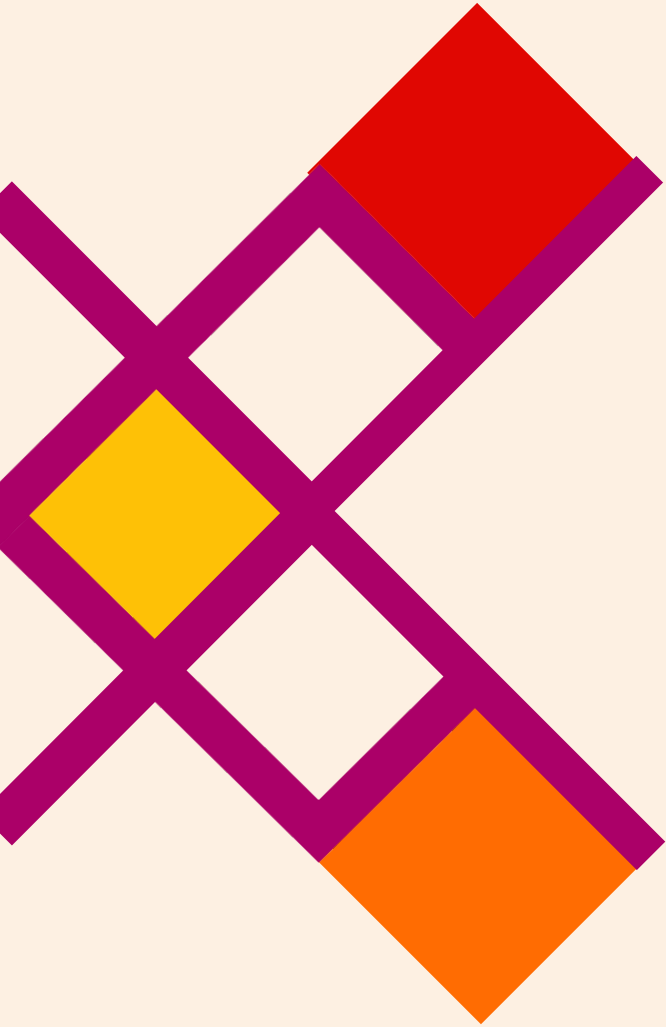
Media Specialist

Stop! Communicate & Listen



Warrington Middle School

Pensacola, FL



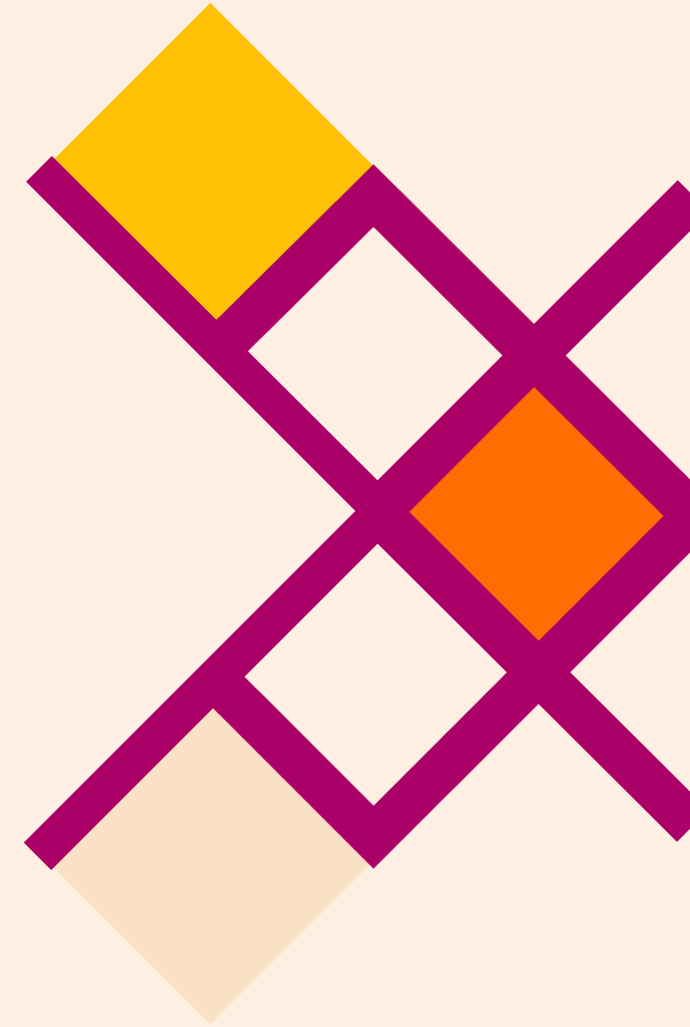
Oral Histories in the Digital Age



StoryCorps



Innovate &
communicate in your
school libraries!



What is StoryCorps?

*A nonprofit organization that records the oral histories of people all over the country & archives the interviews at the Library of Congress.

-Initiatives: The Great Thanksgiving Listen, One Small Step, Road to Resilience, Military Voices, Outloud,

How did this project originate?

- *Observations of Students' Interactions

 - Students lacked effective communication skills.

- *Desire to do a StoryCorps project, especially The Great Thanksgiving

How does someone record an interview with StoryCorps?

*StoryCorps Recording Sites, Mobile Booth Tours, Public Library Partnerships, StoryCorps in the Classroom (archive.storycorps.org), StoryCorps App

Who Can Record an Interview?

- *Students need to be at least 13 years old to use the StoryCorps app and/or have a StoryCorps account.
- Librarian or teacher can upload interviews from his/her StoryCorps account.
- *Recommend sending home permission slips to participate in StoryCorps as names,

How can you fund a StoryCorps project?

*Write a project-based grant.

-Received \$2,400 from the Cox Communications Innovation Grant to create a recording studio and record interviews with teachers.

Can you do the project without funding?

***YES!!!**

-Use a laptop, phone, or tablet to record in the StoryCorps app or website.

Why spend money if the project can be done for free?

- *Create buzz about the project.
- *Get student and teacher buy-in.
- *Better audio quality with

What should I buy?

*A reliable laptop with an app to record and edit interviews.

*Macbook Pro (\$1,700)

13-inch MacBook with

TouchBar

What should I buy?

*2-3 Studio-quality Headphones
-Headphones (\$149 for bundle)

Tascam Over-Ear Headphones

*Headphone Splitter

-Belkin 5-Jack Audio Splitter (\$11)

Belkin Rockstar Splitter

What should I buy?

*2 Microphones

-Blue Yeti Microphone Bundle
(\$149)

Blue Yeti Microphones

Optional- Pop Filters

-Knox Pop Filter (\$10/usually in a bundle)

What should I buy?



*Remind others
to be
quiet.

-Recording in
Progress
Sign

What should I buy?

***Optional-** StoryCorps Books by
StoryCorps Creator Dave Isay

-Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work

*-Listening Is An Act of Love: A Celebration Of
American Life from the StoryCorps Project*

-All There Is: Love Stories from StoryCorps

*-Ties that Bind: Stories of Love & Gratitude from the
First Ten Years of StoryCorps*

What should I buy?

*Optional- CD Burner & Blank CDS
(To make copies of interview to share with interview guests)

-Version Tech DVD/CD Writer
(\$30)

CD Burner for Mac or Windows

How do I prepare students?

*StoryCorps in the Classroom Lesson Plans

- Why Do Our Stories Matter?
- Tips for Effective Interviews
- The Power of Active Listening
 - Strengths in Our Stories
- Power of People from Our Pasts

What makes a great question?

*List of questions for peers, teachers, and anyone

The Great Questions List

-The Big Share: Write a question on your paper and write it down. Find a partner and ask your questions to one another. Trade your paper with your

How do I get my faculty & students involved?

- *Share your vision at a faculty meeting.
 - *Get your principal on board.
 - *Record an interview and share with teachers.
- *Start small and form an instructional partnership with one teacher.

How do I solicit interviews?

- *Survey students and find out which teachers or administrators they want to interview.
- *Have students compose a formal email to teacher/administrator to request an interview.
- *Reach out to multigenerational homes

What is the recording process like?

- *Official StoryCorps interviews are 40 minutes.
- Recommend 20 minutes for student interviews.
- *Start interview with name, age, location, and relation to the interviewee.
- *Have at least 20 questions prepared for interview.
- *Errors are expected and do not need to be edited out.
- Remember that you can pause during an interview!
- *Include a photo of participants

How do I protect student privacy?

- *Use permission slips with all participants, even if students are over 12 years old.
- *Students who cannot be recorded can participate in the writing questions or editing interviews.
- *Consider omitting sharing personal information from interviews (last names, location, age, etc.)
- *Students can interview each other for practice but refrain from uploading these interviews if privacy is a

How do you upload interviews?

*If using StoryCorps app on a phone or tablet, upload interview from there.

-Tag your interview with keywords!

*If using a computer, record interview in a recording app (e.g., GarageBand) and upload interview at archive.storycorps.org.

-Recommend archiving interviews in another place for backup. (Google Sites, Burned CDs, Cloud Storage)

What does a StoryCorps interview look & sound



Interview with mother a
StoryCorps site in Atlant
Interview with grandmoth
on a laptop for The Great
Thanksgiving Listen, & a
Interview with my niece o
the StoryCorps app.

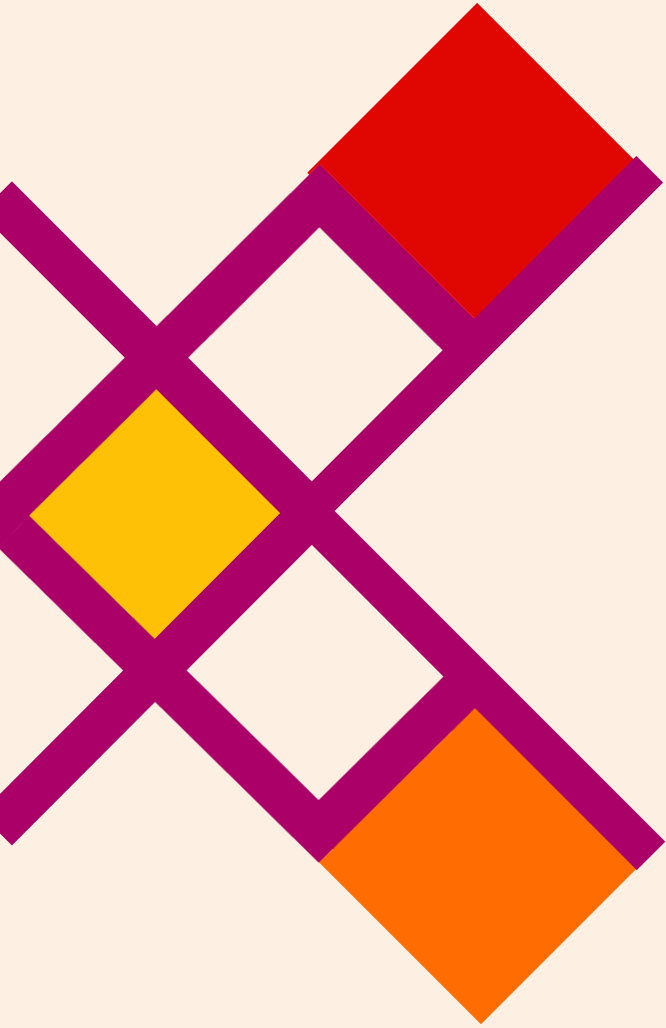


When should you start your StoryCorps project?

*Creating a studio, acquiring funds, ordering equipment, and getting teacher and student participation takes time!

-Start small and use phone to record interviews now!

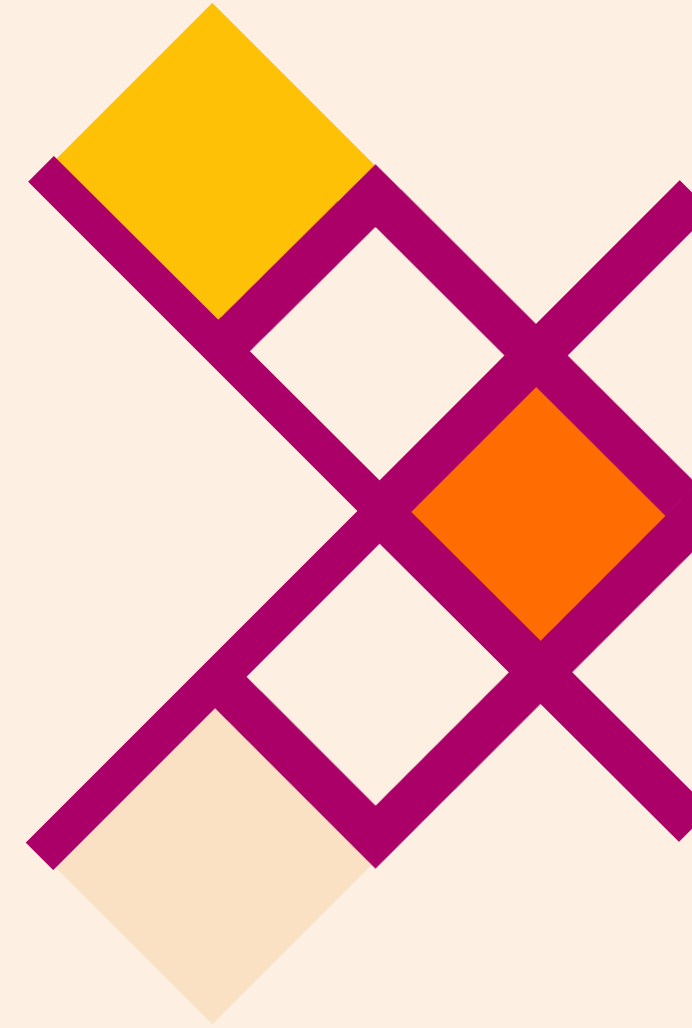
*Recording with StoryCorps can be done on a small or large scale at any time during a



Favorite StoryCorps Interview &

• • • • •
Animation
• • • • •
“The Temple of
Knowledge”

• • • • •
Growing up in a
Library!



“Listening involves a certain surrender, a willingness to sit with what one does not already know. Listening requires us to stretch a little beyond what we know or want.” --Diana Senechal



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