



# Historical Interviews

By: Michelle Bouslog  
EdTech teacher; M.A.Ed. in EdTech, Concordia University St. Paul, MN

History  
Grades 3-5



## Introduction

In this lesson, students will interview a family or community member about a historical moment he/she experienced. The student will then turn the interview into a story to present to others.

## Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2](#)

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

## Materials Needed

- Person to interview
- iPad with StoryCorps app

## Procedure

1. Tell students that history can teach us so much about our world. We often turn to historical books or movies to learn about the past. Yet, so many people who are living in our community or are members of our family have stories to tell. Many have even lived through a major historical event. Think about a grandparent who was in the military or even a parent who may have a story they can recall that was passed down to them.
2. Tell students that they are going to be interviewing either a member of their family or a member of the community on a historical event they experienced (brainstorm ahead of time people in the community who would be willing to be interviewed by a student, so you are prepared for the students who won't have someone at home). The interviewee may have lived through a historical experience in the heart of it or as just a bystander. Either is fine. It is okay too if they are retelling a historical event that happened to their grandpa or great grandma, etc.
3. Students should come up with 10-15 questions to ask. Brainstorm some ideas with the students to get them on the right track.
4. Students should try to interview outside the school hours. For students who are unable to do this, set aside some time where they can call their person at school (think recess, lunch, or during a quiet classroom time).

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5. Once students have completed their interview, use the app [StoryCorps](#) to showcase their interview. Or for simpler purposes, just have the students share out their interviews in small groups.

## Evaluation

- Completion of the interview with at least 10 questions
- Completion of a recording using StoryCorps or conversation in small groups.