**DAY 149: STORY CORPS ORAL HISTORY**

*This activity has the potential to be the most meaningful thing you do in my class. You will be recording a 15-30 minute history of someone who has taken more trips around the sun than you have.* ***IT IS DUE THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AND COUNTS AS AN EXAM GRADE.***

Step 1: Download the Story Corps app at: <https://storycorps.org/participate/storycorps-app/>

Step 2: Choose someone to interview. **They need to be 65 years, or older.** I would suggest you start with the most meaningful people to you. If you don’t have anyone that meets this description, hit up neighbors, teachers, people from church, VFW halls, and old-age homes. You will be shocked how much people enjoy being interviewed. You will be equally shocked how people bond over this experience.

Step 3: Get a base, working knowledge of the following topics before your interview. It is based on how old the person is you’re interviewing. I want you to have a conversation and don’t treat these topics like a study review. Just understand the basics, so you can create a follow-up question if the topic is brought up.

**1940s:**

World War II

Dropping of the Bomb

Post War America

How America has changed from their youth

**1950s:**

Hydrogen Bomb

Korean War

Eisenhower Administration Years

Cold War Tensions

How America has changed from their youth

**1960s:**

The Cold War

The Kennedy and Johnson Administrations

The Nixon Administration

The Vietnam War

Protests and the Counterculture, including Woodstock and the music

The Civil Rights Movement

Detroit Riots of 1967 and the Tigers World Series Championship of 1968

The assassinations of President Kennedy (JFK), Reverend Martin Luther King (MLK) and Senator Robert Kennedy (RFK)

The Moon Landing

**1970s:**

Vietnam

Watergate

The Bicentennial

Iran Hostage Crisis

Pop Culture

Oil Embargo

Step 4: On your app choose what questions to ask. Here are some examples:

• What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest? • Who has been the biggest influence on your life? What lessons did you learn? • How has your life been different from what you’d imagined? • What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do? • What are you proudest of in your life? Why • Who has had the biggest influence on your life and how? • Who are your best friends? What are they like? • Can you tell a story about any cultural traditions observed by your family and help us understand why they are important? • Is there anything that you’ve never told anyone but want to tell me now? • Is there something about me that you’ve always wanted to know but have never asked? • Do you have any favorite story about…? • What was it like where you grew up? What was your childhood like? • If you could do everything again, what would you do differently? • Have you ever had your heart broken? Have you ever broken a heart? • Can you tell me about your religious beliefs/spiritual beliefs? • What was the most profound spiritual moment of your life? • If you believe in God, can you please describe Him/Her/Them? • What are your best memories? Worst memories? • What is your ethnic background? What do you know about your ethnic background? • What were your parents like? Where are your parents from? Have they told you any stories about growing up or living where they’re from? Have you ever been there? What was that experience like? • Who is your favorite relative and why? • What are the most important lessons you’ve learned in life? • How would you like to be remembered? • What are your dreams for me? • Are you proud of me? What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs? • If your race, ethnicity, or gender is depicted negatively by the media, tell a story that helps us understand how this affects you. • If you communicate who you are through your style, describe it and tell us how it communicates who you are.

Step 5: Watch this short video to give you tips on how to conduct a quality interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G70rR2vG5wY>

Step 6: Share the interview with me through email at [anthonysalciccioli@clarencevilleschools.org](mailto:anthonysalciccioli@clarencevilleschools.org)

CHECK YOURSELF:

1. IS IT 15 MINUTES LONG MINIMUM?
2. DID YOU PUBLISH IT? PUBLISHING ARCHIVES IT FOREVER.
3. DID YOU SEND IT TO MY EMAIL? IF YOU SEE THE TROJAN HEAD WHEN YOU SEND IT TO ME, YOU DID IT RIGHT.

**AGAIN, THIS CAN BE THE MOST MEANINGFUL THING YOU DO IN MY CLASS. I’VE SEEN IT FIRST-HAND DOZENS OF TIMES. I ANXIOUSLY AWAIT TO HEAR YOUR INTERVIEWS AND STORIES STEMMING FROM THE INTERVIEWS.**