

# HOW TO USE THE STORYCORPS

# App



## WHAT IS STORYCORPS?

Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has given people of all backgrounds and beliefs, in thousands of towns and cities in all 50 states, the chance to record interviews about their lives. We preserve the recordings in our archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Today, it is the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered.

We share stories through our podcast, broadcasts, animated shorts, digital platforms, and best-selling books. These powerful human stories reflect the vast range of experiences of people of all backgrounds and beliefs in America. Told in an unmistakably personal way, StoryCorps' timeless stories share wisdom and values; engender empathy and connection; and remind us how much more we have in common than what divides us.



**Contribute to today's cultural narrative by recording stories using the free StoryCorps App.**

## HOW DO I RECORD THE STORIES?

- ✓ **DOWNLOAD** the free StoryCorps App (available on Apple iPhone, Android, and Kindle devices). Create an account so you can access your interviews later at [archive.storycorps.org](https://archive.storycorps.org).
- ✓ **SELECT YOUR INTERVIEW PARTNER AND PREPARE QUESTIONS** for the interview using the questions lists in the app. Or, create your own questions and save them in the app.
- ✓ **HAVE A CONVERSATION.** Identify a quiet place to conduct an interview, follow the prompts in the app to begin recording, and let the conversation flow! Remember to sit close together, make eye contact, and ask follow-up questions.
- ✓ **SHARE AND ARCHIVE YOUR INTERVIEW.** Enter a descriptive title, summary, keywords, and photo. Titles should capture the main idea of the interview, and keywords act like hashtags, making it easier for you and others to find your interview in the future.

For more interview tips, go to [storycorps.org/app](https://storycorps.org/app).

Please see **Safety Tips** if recording family members at home during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

[STORYCORPS.ORG](https://storycorps.org)

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## GREAT QUESTIONS TO GET STARTED

Great conversations begin with great questions! Use the question lists available in the app or these suggestions as a starting point. You can also create your own questions and save them in the app.

**Where did you grow up?**

**What are you proudest of in your life?**

**How has your life been different than what you'd imagined?**

**Who has been the biggest influence on your life?**

**What lessons did that person teach you?**

**What advice would you give to your teenage self?**

**How would you like to be remembered?**

## CHECKLIST FOR INTERVIEW DAY

Great conversations begin with great questions! Use the question lists available in the app or these suggestions as a starting point. You can also create your own questions and save them in the app.

- Prepare your questions in advance within the StoryCorps App, or bring a printed copy of questions you've like to ask. Be prepared to go off script and ask follow-up questions!
- Ask your partner for permission before you begin recording.
- Begin the interview by introducing yourself and your partner. State the location, date, and year where and when you are conducting the interview. Example: *Today is November 28, 2019, and I am interviewing my grandmother, Stephanie Rivera, at her apartment in Harlem.*
- After you record, enter your summary, title, and keywords and take a photo with your partner when prompted by the app.
- Thank your partner for sharing their story with you. Share your interview on social media and tag @StoryCorps!