**Due: January 8th 2016 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Over Thanksgiving and Winter Break students need to interview someone in their family for 30 - 40 minutes and start filling out a family tree. **IF they would like they can participate in the program described below!** The entire toolkit will be posted on our class website: [www.educatingexcellence.com](http://www.educatingexcellence.com)

**“The Great Thanksgiving Listen”**

StoryCorps (a radio program featured on NPR every Friday) has an assignment as generations gather this Thanksgiving: Document the stories and voices of a grandparent or elder.

The project is called [The Great Thanksgiving Listen](https://storycorps.me/about/the-great-thanksgiving-listen/), and StoryCorps is asking history teachers to encourage their students to record the interviews using the [StoryCorps app](https://storycorps.me/) over Thanksgiving weekend. The app helps users select questions and record and then upload interviews to the StoryCorps archive in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

StoryCorps has also [created a toolkit](https://storycorpsme.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2015/10/SC-GTL-Teacher-Toolkit-Release-2-10.13.15.pdf) for the project for teachers, though everyone, not just students, is invited to use the app and record over Thanksgiving.

"If we can pull this off, it will create a very powerful and important bottom-up history, history through our voices, through our family's voices and stories of the last 75, 80, 90 years of United States history," StoryCorps founder Dave Isay tells NPR's Renee Montagne. "I hope that's what comes out of The Great Thanksgiving Listen."

Isay says the goal of the Thanksgiving weekend project is to record as many interviews as StoryCorps has collected so far. "We've recorded about 65,000 interviews ... and we want to double it," he says.

Taken from: <http://www.npr.org/2015/10/14/448295644/this-thanksgiving-listen-to-and-interview-your-elders>

* **Parental consent is required for students under the age of 18** to register for a StoryCorps app account. This consent is given electronically at the time the student and parent create an account and agree to the terms of use.
* **Students are NOT required to record their interview or use the app.**
* **IF students do not feel comfortable sharing personal history please see Mrs. Hancock and you will research a leader in U.S. History.**

**GREAT QUESTIONS FOR ANYONE**

* Tell me about one of the most important people in your life.
* Tell me about the person who has had the greatest influence on your life. What lessons did he or she teach you?
* Who has been the kindest to you and why?
* Share some important lessons you’ve learned in life.
* Share some of your earliest childhood memories.
* Are there any funny stories people tell about you from when you were growing up?
* What have you accomplished so far—personally and professionally—that makes you proudest? Why?
* Tell me how you would like people to remember you.
* Would you be willing to share a happy or sad memory with me?
* Thinking about future generations, and knowing that they may hear this recording, is there wisdom or advice you would like to share with them?

**FAMILY HERITAGE**

* Tell me about some traditions that have been passed down through our family. When and how did they get started?
* Are there any classic family jokes, stories, or songs you can share with me?
* What do you see as our family’s legacy?
* Where were our ancestors born? If they moved to the United States, when did they arrive?
* What are some of the jobs/careers held by past generations in our family?
* Of all the family members you have either known or heard stories about, who do you think lived the most interesting life? Why?
* What are your favorite family holidays, and why?

**GRANDPARENTS**

* Tell me about your parents.
* Tell me about your grandparents.
* Where did you grow up, and what was your childhood like?
* Share with me the story of how you and grandma/grandpa met.
* Tell me about when you found out you were going to be a mother/father.
* What was my mother/father like when she/he was growing up? Do you have any favorite stories about her/him?
* Do you remember any songs you sang to her/him when she/he was a baby? Can you sing any for me now?

**GROWING UP AND SCHOOL**

* Tell me about where you grew up and what your childhood was like.
* Did you like going to school? Why/why not?
* What are your most vivid memories of school?
* Tell me about a teacher or other adult that impacted your life while you were growing up.
* What did you do during the summer when you were off from school?
* What jobs did you have when you were a teenager? What did you do with the money you earned?
* If you could go back and relive your teenage years, would you? Why/why not?
* Did you have a nickname? What was it and how did you get it? Does anyone still call you by that nickname?
* Has your life been different from what you imagined as a teenager?

**LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS**

* Tell me about the love of your life.
* How did you meet your wife/husband/partner?
* Describe your first date with your husband/wife/partner.
* Describe your marriage proposal.
* Tell me about your wedding day. Did it go as you imagined?
* Where did you spend your honeymoon?
* What have you learned from your wife/husband/partner?
* Tell me about your happiest moments together.

**WORKING**

* What job do you currently hold, and what jobs have you held in the past?
* How did you find your way to your current job/career?
* Thinking of the jobs you’ve held, is there one that stands out as your favorite?
* When you were younger, what did you imagine your job would be?
* What lessons has working taught you?
* If you could choose any career, what would you pick? Why?

**MILITARY SERVICE**

* When were you in the military? Which branch did you serve in?
* What motivated you to join the military?
* Tell me about basic training. Were you prepared for military life? What were you unprepared for?
* Describe your daily life while in the service.
* What is the most difficult part of being in the military?
* Did you serve in a war zone? When and where?
* What lessons did your service teach you that you still carry with you?
* Describe your transition from military to civilian life. Was it easy or difficult? Why?
* If given the opportunity, would you serve in the military again? Why?

**RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY**

* When you were growing up, what role did religion/ spirituality play in your life?
* What does religion/spirituality mean to you, and what role does it play in your life today?
* Have you ever had a profound religious/spiritual experience? Will you tell me about it?
* What important lessons have your religious/spiritual beliefs taught you? Will you share them with me?
* Do you have any favorite religious holidays? What do they mean to you?

**TIPS FOR RECORDING DAY**

* **Log into your StoryCorps account** before you start recording (you might lose your interview if you are not logged in). \*\*IF YOU ARE USING THE APP – YOU DO NOT NEED TO.
* Audio files and images take up a lot of storage space, so before you start your interview, **check that your device has at least 500MB of available storage.** (You can find an article explaining how to do this in the Support and FAQs section of **StoryCorps.me**).
	+ **The app will prompt you to take a picture** after your interview. Double check that you’ve allowed the StoryCorps app permission to access the camera on your device.
* **Ask your partner** if it is ok for you to record him or her before you start.
* **Bring this sheet** to your interview for reference.
* **Start your interview** by introducing yourself and your partner. State your **names** and the **geographic location** where you are conducting the interview.
* If you are using a **smartphone**, try to hold the device’s microphone **6–12 inches from the speaker’s face** for the best sound quality.
* Remember: you **MUST stop your recording after 40 minutes.** The app has a timer to help you pace yourself. There is no minimum length for an interview.
* You are encouraged to conduct your interview in **whatever language** you and your partner are comfortable speaking together. If you record in a language other than English, **please enter that language as a keyword** (e.g., Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, etc.).
* If your partner **does not agree** to publish the interview, you can hold it **locally on your device** and it will only be accessible to the registered account holder.

