



Eleen Northcutt Senior to Senior Project District Outline

Purpose: to create an appreciation and critical understanding of the fact that citizenship involves knowing and interacting with people of other generations.

Introduction: You are to find a senior partner-- someone who is at least 65 years old, and whom you can interview in person. You may choose a grandparent or other relative as your senior partner (please do not select a parent for this project) or we will locate a suitable partner from a local retirement center or nursing home.

General Agreements

- 1.) All senior students will complete a senior-to-senior project in the second semester their 12th grade Social Studies classroom.
- 2.) Interview a senior 65 or older. Interview must last at least 20 minutes and must be recorded. The questions used will be high quality in nature (see [StoryCorps](#) for examples)
- 3.) Create an artifact, (reflective paper, presentation, etc.), that demonstrates your key learnings and that incorporate answers to the guiding questions.
- 4.) Project will be assigned no later than the day after the 12 week grading period and completed no later than finals week for seniors.
- 5.) All teachers will emphasize this in their gradebook in a manner that denotes importance of completion of the project.

Guiding Questions to be answered in student work/artifact

Why did you choose to interview this person?

Why did you choose the interview questions you asked?

Were there any surprises in the interview?

What parallels did you see between the experiences of your interviewee and yourself?

What was the most important take away for you from this interview?

How would you relate your experience here to the statement that democracy must be relearned each generation?



Sample StoryCorps Questions:

The following questions were developed by StoryCorps and are merely suggestions to drive the interview process.

- A lot of people are talking about deep divides in our country today. Do you have any wisdom you can share on how we might begin to heal them?
- Does the divide concern you? Why? Why not?
- What does it mean to you to be an American?
- Define patriotism.
- Has this election changed how you feel about any of the people in your life? If so, why?
- Looking ahead 4 years, what significant changes do you anticipate seeing in the country as a result of this presidential election?
- What were your feelings when you learned about the outcome of the presidential election? Have you had these feelings following an election before?
- What are your hopes for your grandkids? What are your fears?
- Did this election change you? If so, how?
- Do you think this election will drive you to be more or less politically involved?
- What was it like for you the first time you voted?
- Can you tell me about a presidential race that meant a lot to you? What do you remember about that election?
- Is voting important to you? Why? Why not?
- Is it important to you that I vote when I turn 18 years old? Why? Why not?
- Have you ever experienced any obstacles to voting in your lifetime?