

Lives Streaming: Voices from the Animas

StoryCorps.me Interview Task Statement

Description

Our river and our school share a name. Animas High School students can play a role in helping our community understand and capture this unique moment in our collective history. Your task is to add the human perspectives on the Animas River Spill to the growing body of work of the Storycorps.me initiative, an amazing project designed to capture the stories of everyday Americans. The Storycorps mission:

StoryCorps' mission is to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories of our lives. We do this to remind one another of our shared humanity, to strengthen and build the connections between people, to teach the value of listening, and to weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that everyone's story matters. At the same time, we are creating an invaluable archive for future generations.

Deadline: (Produced, polished and uploaded to Storycorps.me) Tues, Sept. 22nd

Before the interview

- Interview Questions (minimum of 7 open-ended questions)
- Open-ended questions that don't assume the answers
- Try to ask some questions that tie back to our driving questions (this will depend on who you are interviewing and their particular level of expertise/experience)
- Plan to do the interview in a quiet place that may have some of the recommendations for [Sound Quality](#)

During the interview

1. Take a photo with you and the interviewee
2. Be sure to follow these guidelines for excellent interview etiquette:
 - a. Make eye contact
 - b. Validate the interviewee's emotions and restate their comments as appropriate
 - i. Ex: "So that is when you first knew you were in love with your husband? That must have been an amazing moment!"
 - c. Speak clearly
 - d. Ask followup questions
 - e. Be willing to go with the flow and abandon your list of questions if necessary

After the interview (the podcast)

A. Immediately after Interview:

- **Thank your interviewee** sincerely and get their contact info so that you can share the work when it is done and published.
- **Email yourself the sound file from your phone!** This is important, as you will need to download it to your computer for editing AND it will serve as a back-up if the interview gets deleted.

B. Produce the Sound File

1. Using [Audacity](#) (PC) or [GarageBand](#) (MAC), edit your sound file. Both of these programs are quite user-friendly. Explore them on your own; get help from peers; make it work! Here are some useful tutorials:
 - [Audacity Tutorials](#)
 - [Garage Band Help](#)
 - [Tutorial on how to build a podcast episode using Audacity \(28 minutes\)](#)
 - [How to Record and Edit a Podcast using Audacity \(9 min\)](#)- shorter version for those of you who need less guidance
2. **Minimum Requirements for podcast production**
 - Introduction (your narration)
 - Put your interview in context!
 - Music fade in/fade out
 - Raw interview data
3. **Save your audio file**

C. Upload to Storycorps.me

1. [Create an account at Storycorps.me](#)
2. [Establish your profile data](#)
3. Click "Add an Interview" (upper right hand corner)
4. Upload the photo of yourself and your interview subject
5. Upload the sound file of your edited interview (post-editing!)
6. **CHANGE THE TITLE** Give your interview a title that begins with "Voices from the Animas:" and ends with the title and name of you and your interviewee:
 - Voices from the Animas: Animas High School Student Dylan Katz and Silverton resident John Smith
 - Voices from the Animas: Animas High School Student Emily Vierling and EPA scientist Jane Johnson
7. Add a **DESCRIPTION** to give your audience a window into the identity of the interviewee and his or her perspective:
 - "John Smith has lived in Silverton, CO for 40 years. He remembers the 1978 mine waste incident that polluted the Animas before. A long time supporter of the efforts of the ARSG, John opposes Superfund designation in the Silverton area."
8. Fill in the info in "**Keywords, Places, and Organizations**"
 - Tag with **KEYWORDS** #VoicesfromtheAnimas; #AnimasRiverSpill ; #environmentaldisasters; OTHERS that work for your particular content?
****It is essential that you use #VoicesfromtheAnimas, as this is how we will be able to collectively archive and share our work with a public audience!*
 - **LOCATION:** Durango, Silverton, Animas River (If your interview takes place in another place, add that here, ie. Navajo Nation, Farmington, etc)
 - **ORGANIZATION:** Add "Animas High School 11th Grade Humanities"

Going Above and Beyond

- Produce a podcast segment that draws on multiple interviews
- Make an animated version of one interview
- Make a documentary on the project:)