



ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



Q2 • Storytelling • Elementary Upper

Local Hero Profile

Before the Activity

- ☐ Review the Activity Overview for this activity.
- ☐ Gather materials: read-aloud excerpt (from Lasting Echoes or Out of the Mouths of Slaves), brainstorming sheets, interview questions, the memo to adults, and permission form.
- ☐ Prepare examples of community hero roles (veteran, Indigenous leader, cultural figure, community organizer, founder, scientist, athlete, first responder).
- ☐ Develop Memo to adults about the project and Permission form for sharing stories and images in line with your school's policies
- ☐ (Optional) Coordinate with your librarian for a brief research mini-lesson.

During the Activity

1. Introduction

- ☐ Ask students if they know stories about themselves from when they were babies.
- ☐ Students share with a partner; select a few to share with the class.
- ☐ Guide them to understand: Someone had to tell them these stories.
- ☐ Explain: Historians also use oral history to learn about events from people who lived them.
- ☐ Read a short excerpt from one of the suggested oral history books.



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2. Brainstorm Local Heroes

- ☐ Brainstorm as a class:
 - Everyday heroes (teachers, nurses, bus drivers)
 - Emergency heroes (firefighters, EMTs, police)
 - Cultural heroes (artists, athletes, Indigenous leaders)
 - Founders of local institutions
 - Community organizers
 - Government or civic leaders
- ☐ Encourage students to choose someone outside their family when possible.
- ☐ If students choose a role (not a person), help them find a real individual through articles or local organizations.

3. Create Interview Questions

- ☐ Brainstorm class questions:
 - What happened during a specific event?
 - What do you enjoy most about your work?
 - What challenges do you face?
 - What do you wish people understood about your job?
- ☐ Provide the interview questions with space for additional student-written questions.
- ☐ Review interviewing best practices.

4. Begin Research

- ☐ Give students time to research their chosen hero using books, library resources, or online articles.
- ☐ Students collect 1–2 newspaper articles or reliable sources about the hero.
- ☐ Students identify the qualities that make this person a hero.



5. Send-Home Materials

- ☐ Send home:
 - Memo to adults about the oral history project
 - Interview questions
 - Permission form to share the story or photo
- ☐ Include resource list: NM State Library Newspaper Collections, oral history tips, top 10 interview questions.

6. Plan the Interview

- ☐ Students check with adults for support scheduling the interview
- ☐ Discuss where/how the interview may occur (in person, virtual, recorded, or handwritten notes).
- ☐ Review safety (adult support with technology, internet use, and transportation).

7. Conduct the Interview

- ☐ Students bring their questions and permission form.
- ☐ Remind them to be polite, prepared, and on time.
- ☐ Encourage recording (audio/video) when possible for accuracy.

After the Activity

Show & Share

- ☐ Students write a short profile including:
 - Hero's name and role
 - Qualities that make them a hero
 - What they learned from the interview
 - What they learned from background research
- ☐ Students share in partners, small groups, or whole-class discussion.
- ☐ Create a class bulletin board or collage.
- ☐ Students write a thank-you note to their hero.