



# ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



## Q2 • Storytelling • Middle School

### Local Hero Interview

#### Before the Activity

- ☐ Review the Activity Overview for this activity.
- ☐ Select short oral history excerpts to introduce the project (e.g., Lasting Echoes, Out of the Mouths of Slaves).
- ☐ Coordinate with other educators/admin to determine where completed oral histories will be stored (school website, library, local history orgs).
- ☐ Prepare materials: brainstorming sheets, question worksheet, interview planning sheet, research organizers.
- ☐ Set expectations and project timeline (Middle School = one interview).

#### During the Activity

##### 1. Introduction to Oral History

- ☐ Ask students what stories they know about family or community members.
- ☐ Explain oral history: learning about events from people who lived them.
- ☐ Read excerpts and discuss: What makes oral history powerful?

##### 2. Identify a Local Hero

- ☐ Brainstorm categories: everyday heroes, emergency responders, founders, cultural leaders, community organizers, local government, scientists, athletes.
- ☐ Students generate a list of possible heroes from the present or recent past (~50 years).
- ☐ Students choose one specific person (not just a job/role).
- ☐ Educators collect names to avoid duplicates and suggest alternatives when needed.



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## 3. Begin Background Research

- ☐ Students research their hero using books, school library sources, or online resources.
- ☐ Collect newspaper articles or reliable websites; ask librarian for help if needed.
- ☐ Students identify:
  - What the hero did
  - Why they are considered a hero
  - Qualities that contributed to their impact

## 4. Prepare Interview Questions

- ☐ Brainstorm class questions:
  - What happened during an important event?
  - What do you enjoy most about your work?
  - What challenges do you face?
- ☐ Provide the interview questions with space for student-written questions.
- ☐ Discuss interview best practices (respect, listening, follow-up questions).

## 5. Planning the Interview

- ☐ Students check with adults for help with:
  - Contact information
  - Technology or phone use
  - Library visits
  - Internet safety
- ☐ Students decide how they will conduct the interview:
  - In person (recommended)
  - Virtual meeting
  - Phone
  - Written notes (least recommended)
- ☐ Practice contacting an interviewee using class-modeled phone/email scripts.



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### 6. Conduct the Interview

- ☐ Students bring their questions, take notes or record (if permitted), and confirm permission to use the narrative.
- ☐ Encourage professionalism and respectful communication.

### 7. Write Up the Interview

- ☐ Students write a profile including:
  - Background of the hero
  - What makes them a hero
  - What actions or qualities demonstrate heroism
  - What they learned from the interview
- ☐ Include a brief quote or detail shared during the interview.
- ☐ Proofread and revise.

### After the Activity

- ☐ Share in partners, small groups, or a class presentation.
- ☐ Create a bulletin board or digital display showcasing student work.
- ☐ Students write a thank-you note to their hero or anyone who supported the project.