

## Creating Portraits of Community

### Out of Class Assignment Directions and Check Off

2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This assignment invites you to research issues that impact our communities today, then use that research to conduct oral histories with elders and/or peers and document their community in photographs.

The out of class assignment can begin after lesson one. Lesson one is designed to get you thinking about what community is. The remainder of the assignment can be worked on throughout the school year. The other lessons focus on how to analyze artwork, construct interview questions, and collect oral histories.

#### Directions for the out of class assignment:

##### Research

**Steps 1-4 can be completed after lesson one.**

- 1. Have your parent/guardian complete the Guardian/Parent Consent Form. Turn in the form to your teacher ASAP.**
2. Based on your mind map completed in lesson one, identify a topic or person of interest that you would like to explore further in your community.
3. Review student work completed in year one on the Creating Portraits of Community webpage. Research the person or topic you would like to explore further.

##### Taking Photos

**Steps 5-6 can be completed after lesson three.**

4. Get out around your school and your community. Where is there evidence of your topic or person? Take some practice photos on your smartphone or with the camera provided, around your school, of things that are of interest to you.
5. Take at least five digital photos that capture the impact of your topic or person. If you take a picture of a person, **they must be 13 years of age**, and you must have them **sign a model release form**.

##### Oral History Collection

**Steps 7-19 can be completed during and after lesson four.**

6. Practice interviewing three different classmates using the interview script provided in lesson four.

7. **Review the *My Community History Project* booklet provided in lesson four.**
8. Create five open ended questions based on your research you completed on a topic or person of interest after lesson one.
9. Ask a peer or community member the five open ended questions to learn more about the topic or person of interest.
10. Set up an appointment to conduct the oral history interview.
11. Bring your open-ended questions to the interview.
12. **Bring the Oral History Release form to the interview. Ensure you get the release signed.**
13. Bring an audio recorder, like a smartphone.
14. Choose a space with little noise.
15. Collect the oral history.
16. Transcribe the interview. Choose the **most important three minutes** of the interview and transcribe it into words using a word document.
17. Write at least one paragraph that captures what you learned.
18. **Submit photographs, oral history transcript, summary paragraph, and model and oral history release forms to teacher.**

**Check Off for Out of Class Assignment**

## **Research**

- ☐ Submit your Guardian/Parent form
- ☐ Choose a topic or person in your community that is interesting to you
- ☐ Review student work from year one
- ☐ Research person or topic of interest to you

## **Taking Photos**

- ☐ Take practice photos of things that are of interest to you
- ☐ Take five digital photographs that help demonstrate person or topic you chose earlier
- ☐ Get model release signed

## **Oral History Collection**

- ☐ Practice interviewing three classmates using provided script
- ☐ Review *My Community History Project* booklet
- ☐ Create 5 open ended questions about person or topic
- ☐ Ask a peer or community member the 5 open ended questions
- ☐ Set up an appointment to conduct an oral history interview
- ☐ Conduct interview
- ☐ Get oral history release signed
- ☐ Three-minute transcription of oral history interview into a word document

## **Submit**

- ☐ Submit photographs, oral history transcript, summary paragraph, and model and oral history release forms to teacher
- ☐ Additional items that may be submitted: audio files or video files of oral history interview

## **Submit to Teacher:**

- ☐ Guardian/Parent Consent Form
- ☐ Oral History Release Form
- ☐ Model Release Form
- ☐ Word document of oral history three-minute transcript
- ☐ Five digital photographs of community
- ☐ Summary paragraph

