

Seek Learning

Grades 4–12

Objective

Students will strengthen journalism and reporting skills—including empathy, speaking, listening, and writing skills—by interviewing family or community members. Students will use an art form of their choice to express the main ideas from their interviews.

Materials — [Worksheets available on Google Slides](#)

- “Seek Learning” worksheets
- “Self-Reflection” worksheet (optional)

Class Activity

1. If you haven’t already, review the “[Welcome to the Skirball](#)” introduction, which features collection items that relate to this lesson, as well as information about the Skirball and its permanent exhibition, *Visions and Values: Jewish Life from Antiquity to America*.
2. Discuss the value of passing down stories and personal experiences.
3. Ask students to think of someone significant in their lives whom they would like to learn from and interview in person or virtually.

Student Instructions

Use the “Seek Learning” worksheets to prepare for, conduct, and record your own interview with someone significant in your life. You may conduct your interview in person or virtually.

Following your interview, decide what art form you want to use to express the main ideas from your interview to the class. You could make a poster, sculpture, short film, recording, or presentation. It’s up to you!

Share Out

Create a classroom gallery or presentation of student work that represents the stories and interviews the students conducted.

Curriculum Connections

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA: SL.1, 3, 5; W.2, 3, 4, 7

California Arts Standards: VA:Cr1.1, VA:Cr2.1, VA:Cn10

Resources

Resources for Interviewing

For inspiration on how to prepare for and conduct an interview, check out the organization [**StoryCorps**](#). The following StoryCorps guides are particularly helpful for this lesson:

- [“Tips for a Great Conversation.”](#)
- [“Great Questions.”](#)
- [“Lesson: Tips for Effective Interviews.”](#)

Learn from fellow students who interview community members by checking out the YouTube video [“Tell Me Your Story - Interviewing Tips for Kids.”](#) (running time: 9:57).

Resources to Inspire Your Art-Making

See how artist Stephanie Mercado used interviews with seven people to create [a series of posters](#) for the installation [Sustain: From Loss to Renewal](#) at the **Skirball Cultural Center**. The portraits spotlight members of Los Angeles’s essential workforce and tell the stories of their pandemic experiences.

Be inspired by the artwork and words of Asian American students across the country in [“Student Voices,”](#) produced by the news organization **Chalkbeat**.

Check out [Youth Radio](#), a national network of young journalists and artists who collaborate with peers and top media professionals across the country to create impactful content.

Connect with Us

Our educators are here to help! If you have questions about this curriculum or would like to share your students’ writing or artwork with us, please email teacherprograms@skirball.org.