

## Oral history recommended resources

[StoryCorps](#) StoryCorps is the brainchild and heart work of Dave Isey. The organization works to collect, preserve and share stories in order to create human connections. Sign-up to be emailed an story of the week, or peruse their archives for stories that are relevant to your lessons and classroom. The pot of gold is the materials for [The Great Thanksgiving listen](#), a project that encourages young people to collect oral histories. The teaching guide is fabulous!

[The Voices of WWII: Voices in the Classroom](#) by Bristol Productions. This set of oral histories produced in Washington state and made into documentaries on World War II has transcripts that students can read that are excellent mentor texts. The website also includes both lesson plans and step-by-step guides on how to conduct an oral history.

[Densho](#) another excellent source for students to view oral histories. Densho is an organization dedicated to the education on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Densho began as an oral history project to capture stories and has grown into much more. Go there for oral histories, classroom resources mentor texts. On May 11, Densho held a book launch with Daniel James Brown (*Facing the mountain*). I fully plan on showing parts of this interview to my students as a model for how professional historians use interviews and oral histories to write history.

[Mentors and Community resources](#) Look in your community for a stakeholder's group or senior center that can connect you with interviewees. I am very grateful for Carol Coe, retired teacher and oral history veteran, who helped me really up my game with encouraging my students to publish their stories into a booklet. Her mentorship and guidance really helped us to produce our booklet on our school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition, think about reading narratives that were produced from research and oral histories to your students throughout the year. My favorite is *Warmth of other suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson. When I tell my students how many people she interviewed to write this book (over 1,000), their eyes get big. But when they read her narrative, they see the value.

[Shoah](#). If you can find it, consider sharing excerpts from this 1985 documentary on the Holocaust with your students. The documentary is largely oral histories. It is a good way for students to understand the power of oral history to tell the story.