

Telling Their Stories

An interdisciplinary writing unit

In this unit you will be writing a 2-3 page narrative in the nonfiction or historical fiction genre.

Step One: You will interview a person who is over the age of 65. You may interview a family member, neighbor, or family friend. From this person, you will gain insight into a moment in history. This moment should be personally meaningful to the man or woman you are interviewing, but it should also help us, your reader, to understand the past. For example:

- learning President Kennedy was shot
- the experience of seeing color TV for the first time
- watching the moon landing
- experiences with desegregation
- the Korean or Vietnam War
- the election of Margaret Chase Smith



In addition to conducting your own interview, we will be hosting elders in our school so they can share their stories with you.

Step Two: Once you have conducted your interview, you will need to do further research to make sure you fully understand the time period about which you will be writing. It's up to you to make sure all the details you provide in your story are accurate.

Step Three: Once you understand your time period, you will be writing about an experience from the point of view of the person you interviewed using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

In your writing, you will:

- Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator (the person you interviewed) and other characters.
- Organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

- Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
- Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.