How to Use the OurStoryBridge Teacher's Guide

What is OurStoryBridge?

OurStoryBridge is the free resource and tool kit for producing a crowdsourced, community, online story project emphasizing audio history collecting and sharing. Communities across the country have started their own, local OurStoryBridge Partner Projects. Since launching in 2020, over 1,400 three-to five-minute stories with accompanying photos and 30 podcasts have been collected from OurStoryBridge Partner Projects. These stories are suggested for classroom use, with more added frequently.

What are the resources available in the Teacher's Guide?

The *Teacher's Guide* contains six key resources (all linked below):

1. **How to Use the Teacher's Guide**: this document shares how and why educators should incorporate the free tools provided by OurStoryBridge.
2. **Story Summaries**: brief 2 to 3 sentence descriptions of each narrative's contents, hyperlinks, and affiliated content tags to enhance understanding (e.g., elementary school, women's empowerment, and Olympics).
3. **Story Selection Chart**: the chart organizes stories by their academic discipline for seamless incorporation into lessons.
4. **DEI Stories**: a comprehensive list with brief 2 to 3 sentence descriptions of each narrative's contents and hyperlinks to all stories that fall within this classification.
5. **Teacher's Guide Poster**: a description of the Teacher's Guide and its function utilizing graphics and testimonials.
6. **SchoolStoryBridge Curriculum** : a guide for teachers, librarians, and staff to conduct storytelling projects where student learn to tell their own stories.
7. **Sample School Assignment**: a lesson plan for educators for student listening, then sharing their own narratives.
8. **Mapping Adirondack Community Stories to NYS Curriculum**: a tool for NYS educators that connects New York stories to state based curriculum.

Why should I use these stories in my classroom? What do they add to current resources?

Meet your students in the media that compels them! Use these stories and podcasts from OurStoryBridge Partner Projects across the country by assigning stories relevant to a lesson as homework, playing them in the classroom, using them to guide a lesson, or suggesting them for activities or projects. Use them to introduce a topic, make a concept memorable, or stimulate discussion, making your classes appealing and memorable.

Who told these stories?

The Partner Projects represent 15 states, while storytellers are from communities across the country. These stories teach universal lessons; the challenges residents have faced, historical relevance of residents and visitors, cultural and outdoor activities, and surprises have meaning beyond their location. The *Story Summaries* document shares the location of each partner project, examples include the Igiugig indigenous tribe in Alaska, the Lorain County Historical Society in Ohio, and the Underground Railroad Education Center in New York.

For more information, email createyourstoryproject@gmail.com

How can I use OurStoryBridge project stories and podcasts in my classroom?

1. The *Teacher's Guide Poster* will provide ideas on how to use these stories!

2. All stories and podcasts currently cataloged are in *Story Summaries*; click the hyperlinked title for each story to play it.

3. For middle and high school classes, click on the *Story Selection Chart*. Review categories like Social Studies, STEM, or English. Under those categories find courses closest to what you are teaching. Click the hyperlinked title for each story or podcast to play it.

4. For stories that may have specific interest for elementary school or college classes, go directly to *Story Summaries* to make your story and podcast selections from the final column. Click the hyperlinked title for each story to play it.

5. In the *Story Selection Chart*, *Story Summaries*, and *DEI Stories* the stories and podcasts are identified by the same number.

6. In addition to building the stories into your lessons, you can give students instructions on how to find and listen to specific stories and podcasts or you can construct assignments for them like in this Sample School Assignment.

7. You and the students can also go directly to the local story project websites listed at the top on *Story Summaries*.