

The logo for Chicago StoryCorps is centered on a dark red background. It features a white square containing the word "Chicago" in a white, elegant cursive script. Below "Chicago", the word "STORYCORPS" is written in a white, bold, uppercase sans-serif font.

Chicago
STORYCORPS



What is StoryCorps?

StoryCorps Interviews

Interview tips

Story Clips

Debrief





StoryCorps' mission
is to preserve and share
humanity's stories
in order to build
connections
between people
and create a more
just and compassionate
world.



Since 2003, StoryCorps has recorded over **80,000 interviews** across the United States.



Our Interview Model

StoryCorps interviews are **casual** conversations between two people who know each other

Conversations are facilitated by a StoryCorps staff member

Not scripted or rehearsed

Each interview is 40 minutes long

What does do with your interview?

It's up to you.

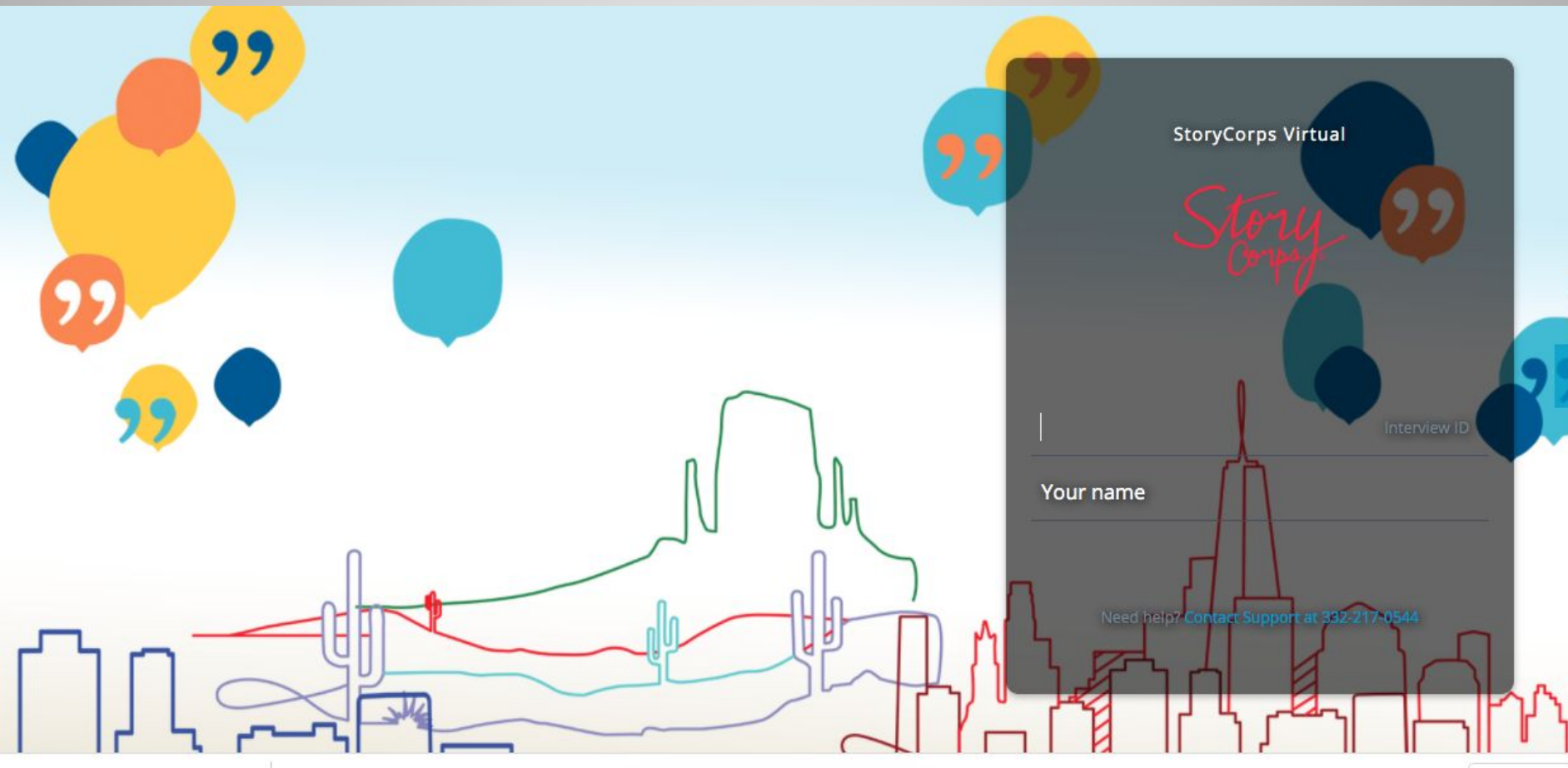
You receive a digital download of your interview no matter what.

You can sign a General Release form,
which gives StoryCorps permission
to save your interview in our [Online Archive](#)
and to send a copy to the [Library of Congress](#).

or

You can choose not to archive your interview.
You can keep it private or share it with whomever you like.
In this case, StoryCorps will not save your interview.

StoryCorps Virtual Interview Platform





Excellent Connectivity

You're all set!

VIDEO QUALITY

367 Kbps

0% packet loss

AUDIO QUALITY

40 Kbps

1% packet loss

Re-test



Your Name (Optional)



Camera

Switch

On



Microphone

Switch

On



Connectivity test

Done.

Join CHI003331

Example of StoryCorps Virtual Interview

The screenshot displays the StoryCorps virtual interview interface. At the top left, the StoryCorps logo is visible. The main header area contains the ID **CHI003331**, a participant count of **1**, and the support contact **SCV Support: 332-217-0544**. On the right side of the header, there are icons for camera and microphone, a blue **Record** button, and a **Layout** button. The main area shows three video feeds: a large feed on the left of a woman with brown hair in a blue top; a large feed in the center of a woman with dark hair and large floral earrings; and a smaller feed on the right of a woman with glasses and a headset.

OPENER

What is something that
we wouldn't know if you
just by looking at you?

INTERVIEWING BEST PRACTICES

Ask open-ended questions.

Ask both fact and feeling-based questions.

Be ok with silence. Have patience.

Ask follow-up questions.

Avoid asking long, complicated questions.

INTERVIEWING BEST PRACTICES

The best interviews are the ones that sound like natural conversations. Everyone has a story and your job as an interviewer is to help your guest share their story.

- Prepare for the interview;
- Connect with the interviewee;
- Relax and be yourself!

Preparation:

- Research the subject
- Research the guest—get their bio, know their positions
- Pre-interview them when possible

Examples of Great Questions

- Where did you grow up?
- What was (town/neighborhood) like?
- Can you describe your childhood?
- What were your grandparents/parents like?
- Did you have siblings? How would you describe your relationship?
- What are your favorite memories or stories about your family?
- Describe your personality when you were a child.
- What traditions have been passed down in your family?
- Do you have children? What was the most rewarding/ most challenging part of being a parent?
- What has brought you joy in life? What has been your biggest challenge?
- What life lessons have you learned that you'd like to share?
- What are you most proud of?
- How would you like to be remembered?

Story Clips



Wanda Bridgeforth

Paul Bruce

COVID-19 Questions

- What has given you comfort and hope during this time?
- What has been the most challenging part of this experience?
- what is the toughest part of your days right now? The best?
- What's the biggest way your life has changed because of the pandemic?
- Is there someone you can't see right now who you really wish you could?
- How is this experience different from other historical events you've lived through ?
- Do you or have you had COVID-19? What is/was that experience like for you?
- What memory of this time do you think will stay with you?
- Has this experience changed you? If so, how?
- What have you learned from this experience?

Examples of great follow-up questions

How did that make you feel?

What happened next?

What were you thinking when that happened?

Can you describe him/her/them?

Can you paint a picture of that in words?

Can you think of any examples of that?

Tell me more about...

Sound Quality Tips

- Wear headphones to prevent echoing. Turn down the audio on your computer.
- Pick a room that is quiet and has strong wifi connectivity.
- Turn off cell phones or put them in airplane mode.
- Turn off fans, TVs, and music in nearby rooms. Let people know you are recording.

AUDIO QUALITY BEST PRACTICES

Use rooms that have:

- Carpeted floors
- Drop ceilings
- Closed windows and drapes
- Irregular shapes
- Full bookcases

Avoid using rooms that are large and have:

- Uncovered or tiled floors
- High ceilings
- Square shapes
- Bare walls
- Big windows without curtains
- Noisy appliances or audible background noise

How to “sound-treat” a space:



Put down a thick rug



Cover 1/2 of the walls with heavy blankets



Shut all the windows and close all drapes



Find comfortable chairs that lock in a fixed position

How organizations use *Story Corps* interviews

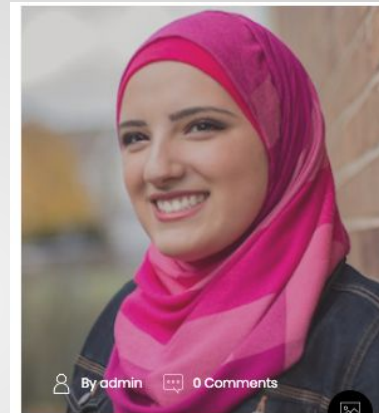
WBEZ 
May 23 · 

Jack Rothmund, 23, and Donald Bell, 70, met through their work with the Pride Action Tank at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. On this week's StoryCorps, they talk about the LGBTQ community and aging.



WBEZ.ORG
StoryCorps Chicago: 'Every Generation Stands On The Shoulders Of Its Predecessors'

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Alaa Basatneh: #ChicagoGirl for Freedom in Syria

"We're in a dark and long tunnel, but our vision should remain focused on the light at the end: the light of freedom and pursuit of happiness."

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Fadumo Omar: The Faith in Your Heart

"As a woman of color and a Muslim, I have found it has been somewhat tumultuous navigating my true identity."

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Questions?

Listen. Honor. Share.

STORYCORPS