CUSTOMIZED GUIDANCE

FOR Educators

If you teach college or high school students age 15 or older, incorporate VHP into your curriculum to provide your students with experiential learning and multidisciplinary instruction. Not only will they experience history like never before, but each interviewer becomes a primary source contributor to the Library of Congress. Time spent on VHP activities may help meet requirements for volunteer service learning hours.



- Select from a list of <u>primary source sets</u> to help plan lessons.
- Use presentations from <u>Serving: Our Voices</u> to recognize cultural heritage months, commemorate historic events and explore groups of veterans.
- Require students to watch our <u>brief instructional video</u>.
- Provide access to the Veterans History Project Field Kit.
- Encourage students to find veterans in their family or community who are willing to be interviewed and/or donate original photographs or letters.
- Recommend background resources such as books, films and websites to help students research U.S. military history.
- Secure interview location(s) and recording equipment, or require students to independently coordinate logistics.
- Consider placing students in alternating groups of the three roles described below:
 - 1. Interviewer conducts pre-interview and manages day-of-interview responsibilities
 - 2. **Equipment Operator** tests recording equipment, including battery life, storage space, audio settings, lighting settings and Wi-Fi connection if applicable, and records the interview
 - 3. **Interview Note Taker** writes key words or thematic topics on the *Interview Notes Form* during the interview

Consult our resources on best practices and sample interview questions:

- Sample Interview Questions (PDF, 121KB)
- <u>Best Practices for Oral History Interviews</u> (PDF, 166KB)

Once the students' interviews are complete, have them link to the Veterans History Project website (loc.gov/vets), and follow the directions for "Step 3 – Send found under "How to Participate."

Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 to collect, preserve and make accessible the firsthand remembrances of United States veterans from World War I through the more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

View our <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u> for answers to the most common questions about the Veterans History Project.

For more information visit loc.gov/vets, call (202) 707-4916 or email vohp@loc.gov

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