



MCNY Educator Conversation Guide: Collecting New York Stories from Teaching in 2020

What is your story of teaching or learning during the pandemic? Whose perspective on this moment would you want to record for future generations to hear?

The Museum of the City of New York, in connection with **StoryCorps**, is collecting personal narratives during this unprecedented time in education through informal, recorded interviews.

Select an educator to interview or, if you are an educator yourself, ask someone – a friend, colleague, family member – to interview you. Use this conversation guide to help plan your interview.

Step-by-step instructors for using **StoryCorps Connect** can be found by visiting www.storycorps.org/participate/storycorps-connect.

Once you've recorded your interview, tag it with **#MCNYTeachersSpeak** to add it to the Museum's collection of teacher stories.

Interviews on StoryCorps Connect can be a maximum of 40 minutes long. StoryCorps finds that most participants are able to answer around 6 questions during a 40-minute interview, so select 6 to 8 questions from the list on the following page that you'd like to include in your interview. Remember you can create questions of your own to ask as well!

Additional Recommendations

- At the beginning of the interview, the interviewer (person asking the questions) should state their name and the date and time of the conversation.
- Speak clearly for the recording. If relevant, include the relationship between the interviewer and the interviewee.
- Feel free to ask unplanned, follow-up questions in response to what the interviewee shares. The goal is to capture a personal, individual story.

Supporters

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Suggested Questions

1. Can you begin by sharing your name, age, where and/or what you teach, and who you teach (grade/s or student populations)?
2. What is your relationship with New York City? Did you grow up here, move here as an adult, or do you work in the city but live elsewhere?
3. Can you tell me a bit about your memories of the early days of the pandemic in March and April? What were you feeling, and what details stand out from those months?
4. Did you or anyone you know have Covid-19? What is/was that experience like for you?
5. What have you missed most about being in a pre-pandemic classroom or teaching environment?
6. How did your school community respond to the pandemic?
7. What are some of your most memorable experiences of teaching remotely?
8. What was/has been the hardest part of remote teaching? The best? Is there anything about teaching remotely that has surprised you?
9. What are some of the ways you've seen the impact of the pandemic on your students and their families?
10. New York City, along with the entire nation, has experienced a massive uprising for racial justice beginning in May 2020 spurred by the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. How did that event and the subsequent protests impact you and your students?
11. Did you witness or participate in any protests? If so, how was that experience?
12. How have the uprisings for racial justice and against police brutality influenced your practice as an educator?
13. What do you want to see change in the wake of the uprisings?
14. Can you tell us a little bit about your life as an educator right now? What's your situation and how are you coping?
15. Have the experiences of 2020 changed you as a person? If so, how?
16. Have the experiences of 2020 changed you as an educator? If so, how?
17. Have these experiences changed how you feel about New York City?
18. What is one wish you have for New York City's education system and students going forward?
19. If you could send one message to your fellow New York City educators, what would it be? What's a message you'd want to send to your students?