

FACING DIPLOMACY

A CROWDSOURCED DIGITAL STORYTELLING CAMPAIGN
THROUGH STORYCORPS®

StoryCorps Interview Toolkit

WHAT IS FACING DIPLOMACY?

The [National Museum of American Diplomacy](#) is proud to launch a crowdsourced digital storytelling campaign as part of our [Facing Diplomacy](#) series in order to build a more complete history of American diplomacy.

Facing Diplomacy leverages the [StoryCorps](#) platform, a free web or smartphone application for public use, to solicit stories from American diplomats of all backgrounds. When Facing Diplomacy stories are uploaded through the StoryCorps platform, they are automatically archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

We define diplomacy broadly and welcome all members of the American foreign affairs community. This includes civil and foreign service professionals, past and present, as well as family members, locally employed staff, interns, participants of the fellows programs, and contractors.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

Step 1: If you are a currently serving State Department employee, you would need to seek GPA clearance to be interviewed in your personal capacity. To apply for GPA clearance, go to GPA's website on the State Department intranet and navigate to GPA Reviews.

Step 2: If you are recording remotely, set up a [StoryCorps Connect](#) account. If you are conducting the interview in person, you can download the [StoryCorps App](#).

Step 3: If using StoryCorps Connect, send the interview link to your interviewer (your interviewer can be anyone of your choosing – a family member, a friend, another colleague).



FACING DIPLOMACY

A CROWDSOURCED DIGITAL STORYTELLING CAMPAIGN
THROUGH STORYCORPS®

Step 4: Make sure you allow StoryCorps access to your microphone and video.

Step 5: Wait for the interviewer to join.

Step 6: Start your recording.

DURING THE INTERVIEW

Step 1: Begin by reading the introductory script: your name, age, the date of the recording, who you are speaking with, and a disclaimer that this interview is being recorded in your personal capacity.

“Hello! My name is [insert name]. Today is [insert date] and I am speaking with [insert name]. This interview is part of the National Museum of American Diplomacy’s Facing Diplomacy initiative and the views expressed during this interview do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of State.”

Step 2: Ask your interviewee the pre-selected questions, asking follow-up questions as needed.

Step 3: Close the conversation by thanking the interviewer.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

Step 1: Fill out the StoryCorps Connect form. For the description of the interview, you can write: “This interview is part of the #FacingDiplomacy campaign.”

Step 2: Make sure to include “**FacingDiplomacy**” as a keyword phrase so that the interview will be part of the curated campaign. You are welcome to also use other keywords to describe the interview.

Step 3: Make sure the interview is public.



FACING DIPLOMACY

A CROWDSOURCED DIGITAL STORYTELLING CAMPAIGN
THROUGH STORYCORPS®

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1.If you served or are currently serving as a State Department employee, what inspired you to become a diplomat? And if you are a family member of a diplomat, how would you describe a career in diplomacy?
- 2.What roles have you held in your career? And of your postings, which one has been your favorite? And why?
- 3.How do you think American diplomacy is evolving?
- 4.What surprised you the most about a career in diplomacy?
- 5.What are you most proud of in your career?
- 6.If you could give advice to your younger self, what would it be?
- 7.Why do you think it's important for the State Department to reflect the diversity of our country?
- 8.For anyone interested in a career in diplomacy, what skills do you think are needed to succeed?
- 9.If you could have dinner with any diplomat, past or present, who would it be?
- 10.Is there anything else you would like to talk about that we didn't cover?

