

ONE SMALL STEP



We are living through difficult days in these United States. Americans feel increasingly disconnected and divided. Political disagreement across party lines has metastasized into abject contempt. We don't hear each other and we don't know each other. Many people feel unheard, alone, and afraid.

Over 15 years, StoryCorps has perfected a method for helping people feel more connected, for increasing hope and decreasing fear of the other, and for reminding us of the inherent worth of every person and every story.

Up to this point, almost all of the people who have taken part in StoryCorps have done so because they know and love one another. In this moment of national divide and discord, we have been developing a new kind of interview: one that puts people on opposing sides of the political spectrum into a StoryCorps recording booth—strangers, as well as family members and friends. Launched in September 2018, We're calling this effort **One Small Step**.

Because participants are aware that their stories will become part of the historical record for generations to come, we have found that they bring their best selves to these conversations. People don't come to argue about politics, but simply to get know one another as human beings and to take one small step toward each other.

INTERVIEW GROUND RULES

DON'T: Raise your voice, name call, or interrupt your interview partner.

DO: Listen. Remember, listening is not about being quiet—it's about being present and curious.

REMEMBER: This is a two-way conversation. Be prepared to ask—as well as answer—questions. Try not to debate political issues. This is not about arguing a position; rather, it's about talking and listening to one another as human beings.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- Why did you agree to do this interview today?
- Was there a moment, event, or person in your life that shaped your political views?
- What's most hurtful to you about what people across the political divides say about people on your side?
- Can you talk about any traits you admire in people on the other side of the political divide?

Learn more about **One Small Step** and sign up to be part of the movement at **STORYCORPS.ORG**.



Listen to Jennifer & Peter



Listen to Amina & Joseph

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