



Alabama's Bicentennial School Project: Eagle Eyes Preserving History Clark-Shaw Magnet School (Phase I- Due November 30!)

This project consists of multiple phases. Every student will be required to participate in Phase I of this project. Phase II, III, & IV will take place at school and will only involve small groups of students or will be voluntary.

Eagle Eyes Preserving History Bicentennial Project explained:

Phase I: Each student will be on a quest for a neat oral history! Start close to home with your own family or branch out to neighbors and community members. Students will receive a project grade in social studies. These projects will be judged by social studies teachers to pick the most intriguing stories. This phase involves every student.

Phase II: The students who submitted the most intriguing oral histories in Phase I will work on editing and producing a final video. This phase will take place at school with only the students selected from Phase I.

Phase III: The final videos will be uploaded to the school YouTube channel for public viewing.

Phase IV: Involves the creation & display of Alabama history on a mural in the school foyer. We will be involving students in this mural project, but this phase will take place at school. It will involve all students when we vote on which images we'd like to showcase on the mural.

What is oral history?

Oral history is simply story-telling! Each of us has a collection of family stories which have been passed down through generations and form an oral history. Some of these stories are formal such as great-grandfather's WWII story, Vietnam stories, or a mother's Civil Rights experiences, but some are more informal like parents trying to explain the concept of a wall-mounted telephone and use of a phone book or how Coke was sold in glass 2-liter bottles that we exchanged for change.

Our goal with this project is to help our students learn that history is ALIVE- you don't have to look far to find history. **Ordinary lives make history!** Today is tomorrow's history. Every single one of you could share a really cool story of "what life was like..." We want our students to research, discover, and preserve that story in a short video clip. Listening to oral histories helps us gain a deeper understanding of history. The students who provide the most intriguing stories will be chosen to participate in Phase II of this project.

Some examples of informal oral histories that Clark students have already expressed an interest in preserving are:

- One student's dad plays in the jazz band, Excelsior which is a big part of Mobile's Mardi Gras history! He would like to talk to his dad and preserve some stories about Excelsior
- One student's great-great-"some sort of uncle" who is now deceased worked for Coca-Cola in Mobile and was one of 5 people who knew the original recipe. His family has passed down this family oral history. He would like to research the story and preserve the oral history.
- One student's grandmother has stories about riding a trolley to "The Loop" to see a show in the theater
- One student has family members from multiple generations who have attended Murphy High School. They all have their own stories about traditions at MHS and the old oak tree. She wants to record some of their stories.
- One student would like to preserve the oral history of the Africatown community.

We also gather more formal oral histories from people we meet such as Allan Hall & Agnes Tennebaum (Holocaust survivors whose stories have been shared with Clark students) or Civil Rights icon Rev. Frederick Reese. We are really interested in capturing stories that can be connected to Mobile County or Alabama. If your family is not from Mobile, we'd bet you still have some more modern stories to share about Mobile or a fascinating story from where they're from or why they moved to Mobile. Students will be encouraged to submit either formal oral histories or informal oral histories. ALL oral histories are valuable!

Clark-Shaw Magnet School has a really unique opportunity to have great impact with this project because our students come from very diverse backgrounds and represent every part of the county. Do you know someone in your family who helped collect coins as a school child to bring the USS Alabama to Mobile? Do you have a war veteran in your family? Do you have funny, shocking, or intriguing stories about the way people used to live or things they have done? Do you have stories of “little known facts” about Mobile? We challenge all students to start asking their family members and people around them to share these stories! Let’s see who can bring the best ones!

Phase I of our bicentennial project requires students to become historians who seek an interesting oral history to preserve in video form. Please, visit <https://storycorps.org/> if you would like to see a much larger collection of oral histories that are being preserved throughout America. Many of these videos are just a few minutes long, but are captivating! We are trying to create a school YouTube channel that will be a Clark-Shaw version of Story Corps. We ask that you **aim for a 2-3 minute video**, but *absolutely no longer than 10 minutes*. Your video should provide a really good story or description of a moment in history.

Planning

With your family, share, brainstorm, and discuss the oral histories that you have already shared with each other. Then, consider the ages and experiences of people in your families and use this project as an opportunity to ask them if they have a story you may not have heard. You may discover a new family treasure! Don’t forget that Veteran’s Day is Nov. 11 and Thanksgiving holidays are Nov. 19-23. These would be excellent opportunities for students to interview family or community members.

If you have questions about this project, please talk with or email your social studies teacher.

Phase I Project Requirements:

This is a required 2nd Quarter project for all social studies classes.

Due: Nov. 30, 2018. MCPSS Moodle address: <https://engage.mcpss.com/login/index.php>

You will be responsible for creating an oral history video. Students will:

- Enroll in the school Bicentennial Moodle Course. Instructions and resources will be posted here.
- Create a storyboard or summary of their project. Details will be posted in Moodle.
- Have the person you interview complete the Video Release Form that’s posted in Moodle.
- Students should save the video to a flash drive or hard drive along with saving to their MCPSS OneDrive cloud storage.
- The project will be submitted in the Moodle Course. You will upload a shared link to Moodle.
- Receive a 2nd Quarter project grade in their social studies class using the grading rubric in Moodle.

Your video should include:

- Name of the person you are interviewing and the topic of the interview
- Video of the person providing an oral history story or someone else narrating their story
- The story should identify the time and place or setting

****The rubric will be in Moodle so be sure to check the rubric before you submit the final project!****

****Details or announcements may be added to Moodle as necessary!****

