

## **GUIDELINES FOR PRESS RELATIONS**

Thank you for your interest in covering StoryCorps in the news. We will do everything we can to accommodate you while assuring that our participants are at ease and our Facilitators are able to do their jobs.

Many participants are happy to speak with press about their StoryCorps experience, however, in some cases, individuals are less comfortable being interviewed or being on camera. Oftentimes people come to StoryCorps to remember a friend or family member who has passed away or to remember difficult or very personal times in their lives. We respect all of the different reasons our participants come to us, and we ask members of the press to do the same.

Please review the Frequently Asked Questions below before visiting a StoryCorps recording facility.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Can I visit the booth to speak to participants and Facilitators?**

Yes! Contact StoryCorps' press desk to let us know when you would like to visit. A staff member will contact the participants ahead of time and make sure they are comfortable with a reporter, a photographer, and/or a cameraperson visiting the booth during their appointment. A staff member will then call or email you back with the times available for you to visit and will inform the Facilitators and/or Site Supervisor. If you are unable to reach the office beforehand and show up at the booth unannounced, please be aware that the Facilitators may be unavailable to assist you and/or the participants may not be comfortable speaking with you.

In all cases, Facilitators will use their discretion to accommodate requests based on the comfort level of the participants and the appropriateness of the reporter.

### **Can I sit in on the conversation? Can I videotape the conversation?**

No! Members of the press are not allowed inside the booth once tape begins rolling. With the participant's permission, you can observe, photograph, and/or film the participants getting ready in the booth and doing sound check beforehand. You will also be able to observe and shoot from outside the window during the interview (when available). Print reporters may listen to the interview on headphones from the waiting area (when available) and ask questions before or after the interview, as arranged.

### **Can I receive a copy of an interview?**

Maybe. With permission of both the participant and the Facilitator, you can request a copy of the interview CD to listen to the content for your story. You will be asked to sign a form that states the limitations of how you are able to use the audio content. Editing a story to air on TV, radio, or online is prohibited as is transcribing large portions of the interview for print. You can use the CD to understand the context of what was discussed as well as to use brief sound bites for a journalistic news story. Any other uses **must** be approved by StoryCorps by contacting press@storycorps.org

### **Where can I find information about the history and background of StoryCorps?**

Please visit our website at storycorps.org. In the Press Room & News section you will find fast facts, high resolution images, and links to our various programs and initiatives.

Credit Derek Pruitt, The Post-Star



Credit StoryCorps



Credit Tony Rinaldo

