

## Benefits of Storytelling for Students

Storytelling benefits high school students who are participating in non-curriculum school activities, as well as in their personal lives.

- Stories begin at birth, and *legacies* are built each time a personal, academic or professional milestone is achieved. Every student has important experiences and lessons learned to share with family, friends and future generations. Creating and publishing a [story](#) about themselves helps students develop skills in critical thinking, communicating, researching and, especially, writing—skills needed to help ensure their success in college and/or the workforce.
- Students can use their story to create virtual yearbooks for all the clubs and teams they participate in. If they already have created a story, they can repurpose it by adding additional photographs and other media, and publish it in multiple languages. This will give them a permanent, accessible social media presence that truly describes who they are.
- Storytelling can also be a wonderful intergenerational bonding experience that builds empathy, compassion and understanding. By helping others less skilled in the art of writing and the use of technology to incorporate images and recordings into their legacy stories, a student can earn [service-learning](#) credits.
- [Students will find it easy to start creating their life stories. Our template only requires individuals to fill in their name, date of birth and a summary not to exceed 60 words. Additional story text, hyperlinks and photographs can be added over time.](#)
- Helping others create a story also demonstrates to prospective employers and postsecondary institutions a student's character and appreciation for how volunteerism benefits a community.

Even though Americans All is no longer active in any curriculum arena, members can access our online K–12, nonpolitical supplemental [classroom resources](#) presented in multiple perspectives, which were sold to more than 2,000 [schools](#) and libraries nationwide.

## Benefits of Storytelling for Students' Families and Their PTA

Storytelling helps families pass on knowledge and experiences to current and future generations. [Research](#) by the National Library of Medicine has shown that patterns of memory sharing begin early in one's life, informing relationships, one's history, and one's sense of cultural belonging. Intergenerational knowledge of one's family history is associated with [positive mental health, wholeness and well-being](#). Life stories are central to one's sense of self and the social world that they inhabit. Indeed, considerable research indicates that storytelling is fundamental to human development, cultural frameworks, and the cultivation of relationships. And by sharing stories, we can all recognize the contributions of every individual, reinforcing the values of diversity and respect, and promote tolerance, acceptance, empathy, and understanding. This can help our increasingly polarized communities and nation focus on commonalities, rather than differences.

PTA organizations support schools in getting both unrestricted funds and resources. We can fill this dual role by providing them with a program—our Heritage Honor Roll and Legacy Partner landing pages—to add as a fundraising tool. In addition, many of the members of the PTA (as well as other school families) own or participate in local businesses and as professional service providers and can use this program to gain additional exposure and reach a larger audience for their entities.