

Your Story Matters

Guidelines

Your Story Matters is a project to bring love, hope, and good news through stories. We are fascinated by how our stories connect us to one another and remind us that God is working in all of our lives. Everyone has a story. And that story matters! We want to give students a place to share their story with the world in a clear and concise manner. So, we have launched the 'Your Story Matters' Initiative (YSMI).

Our goal with YSMI is to share 1,000 stories of middle and high school students in the United States.

In order to do that, we have set up some guidelines to build consistency and familiarity in the storytelling. This will also enable us to gather the stories and to post them online.

1. Build a list of student leaders or potential student leaders to interview

You want students who are leaders in their faith to be interviewed due to the questions that will be asked (see below). Start with students in your First Priority clubs but also include your area churches in this initiative and allow them to interview their student leaders to be part of YSMI.

There is a parent permission slip that needs to be filled out in order for us to post the video on our youtube channel. Any student under the age of 18 does not have the authority to give us permission to post. We need a signature from their parent. Submit that form at the same time as you upload the video. The form can be found in the YSMI Dropbox folder or www.firstpriority.club.

2. Set it up on a Zoom Call

- Use the Zoom gallery view for your recording.
- Only have the interviewer and interviewee on the Zoom call while the interview is happening. This puts one on the left and the other on the right.
- Be sure that your internet connections on both ends are stable. If you hit a moment where one or both of you cuts out, simply pause and start the paragraph over again once you can both hear clearly. You can edit out the pause later and nobody will ever know.

Here are the questions to ask for conversation:

1. *Welcome: say something like, "Hi, my name is _____ and I am a _____ with First Priority. Intro student leader with a few bits of info that you know about him/her"*
2. *Tell us a little about yourself, where you go to school, what you are into, etc.*
3. *Tell us a little about your story of faith. When did you get serious about Jesus?*
4. *What are some of the struggles you have faced as you follow Jesus in High School?*
5. *A lot of people have misconceptions about who Jesus is. Who God is. If there was one big thing you could tell people about who God is, what would it be?*
6. *What do you feel called to do after high school?*
7. *Ask listeners to pray for (student's name) as a leader.*
8. *Give props to student and thank him/her for being open to the interview.*

Our goal is to have videos be in the 6-8 minute range. This does not mean that we won't accept videos that are longer and/or shorter, but we know that people will not watch a lot of 30+ minute videos, so keep them on point.

3. Edit the Video

We want all the videos to be similar to give people a familiar feeling when watching one after the next. So here are some guidelines in order to do that:

1. If you use iMovie to make your edits, use standard lower third to enter the name of the student leader. Have their name pop up on the screen for 7 seconds while you say their name. If you do not have iMovie, then put their name up for 7 seconds in the black space on the bottom left hand corner of your screen.
2. Play music quietly in the background. In iMovie, lower the song to something like 3%. But use your best judgement as songs vary in volume. We recommend using free upbeat songs from bensound.com and we will acknowledge that if you confirm that is where you got the song from. If you use a song from somewhere else, we need that information to prevent copy-write infringement.
3. Put the 'Your Story Matters' graphic found in the YSMI folder at the end of your video for 7 seconds.

4. Upload the video

Upload the video and the parent permission slip to your favorite cloud (Google, Dropbox, etc) and invite brad@fpofamerica.com to have access to them.

5. We will let you know timeline

Depending on the number of videos we are receiving will determine how quickly your video will get posted. Be sure to subscribe to the FPofAmerica YouTube channel to follow along.

****If you have difficulty in the interview or editing processes, feel free to reach out for assistance at anytime.*

Thank you for participating in the Your Story Matters Initiative!

We value you and your story and we are grateful that you are a part of the First Priority community.

YOUR STORY MATTERS

PARENTAL WAIVER AND RELEASE FORM

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As the parent or legal guardian of the child named below, I hereby give my full consent and approval for my child to participate in the First Priority Your Story Matters Initiative. I understand that my child will be interviewed by a First Priority volunteer who will ask him/her about their life of faith, their call, and the journey they are on as a Christian student in a middle or high school. I understand that the interview will be recorded so that it can be edited and posted on the First Priority YouTube channel and promoted on other platforms to build this faith community. I hereby certify that my child is fully capable of participating in the interview and has my permission.

Name of Child

Date of Birth

Parent's Signature

Parent's Phone Number

Parent's Email Address