

Community Helpers Interview

SOCIAL STUDIES / CIVICS



Book Builder

Overview

Students interview someone who works in their community and turn the interview into an illustrated profile book.

Steps for Teachers

1. As a class, list the people whose work keeps the community running
2. Each student chooses one and arranges an interview, in person or by letter
3. Students write six questions in advance, including one about a hard day
4. Students conduct the interview and take notes or record with permission
5. Students plan pages: who they are, what they do, a typical day, the hardest part, why it matters
6. Students write each page using the person's own words in speech bubbles where possible
7. Students add a thank-you page and send a printed copy to the person interviewed

Example

A student interviews the school crossing guard. One page quotes her directly: 'I know every one of these kids by the way they walk. If somebody's dragging their feet, something happened at home.' The last page is a thank-you signed by the whole class.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Interview Quality	Questions are thoughtful and the answers go beyond the obvious	Questions are adequate; answers are mostly factual	Questions are superficial and answers are one-word
Accurate Representation	The person's own words and meaning are preserved faithfully	Mostly faithful with some paraphrase that shifts meaning	The profile misrepresents what was said
Civic Understanding	The book makes clear why this work matters to the community	The book describes the work without connecting it to the community	The role's purpose is unclear
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent