

Teacher Resource Guide

Character Playbook®: Building Healthy Relationships

Conversations: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives

OVERVIEW

Conversations: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives allows students to engage directly with the stories of Medal of Honor Recipients through first-person, interactive dialogue. This guide is designed to help educators make the most of the experience by preparing students for meaningful interaction, encouraging thoughtful reflection, and supporting deeper connections to the values demonstrated in each Recipient's life.

Virtual Recipient Links

Colonel Jack Jacobs: <https://mohmuseum.org/get-to-know-jack-jacobs> password: JACOBSMOH
(connects to the Social Awareness lesson - courage extension activity)

Sergeant Melvin Morris: <https://mohmuseum.org/get-to-know-melvin-morris> password: MORRISMOH (connects to the Relationship Skills lesson – commitment extension activity)

General Patrick Brady: <https://mohmuseum.org/get-to-know-general-brady> password: BRADYMOH (connects to the Responsible Decision Making lesson - integrity extension activity)

HOW THIS INTERACTIVE WAS BUILT

Filming for the project began in early 2023 in Los Angeles, California. Over the course of three intense days, Medal of Honor Recipients answered approximately 800 questions, resulting in about 15 hours of footage. They were filmed using 360-degree cameras and depth sensors. Each Recipient responded to questions about their childhood, families, military service, Medal of Honor actions, and legacy. These recorded answers were then entered into the Conversa artificial intelligence system. For over a year, volunteers trained the system to match each question with the correct recorded answer given by the Recipient. Users can ask the Recipient any question, and if they don't have an answer they will let you know. **Note that this is a safeguarded AI experience where the answers are only pulling from the recorded footage.**

WHAT IS CONVERSATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

Every answer is a genuine, filmed response given by the Recipient during their three-day interview. The artificial intelligence (AI) takes the question asked and matches it with the most appropriate response provided by the Recipient. The AI does not generate or create any new, non-recorded responses.

THE EDUCATIONAL IMPACT OF FIRST-PERSON STORYTELLING

The conversational interactive is a firsthand account of the Recipient's life. The stories told are shaped by the Recipient's unique viewpoint and personal recollections and thus, reflect their personal opinions and beliefs. Students are encouraged to approach this material with an understanding of its deep personal and individual nature.

Learning Objectives: *Hearing real stories like this helps students...*

- See the human side of heroism by showing that Medal of Honor Recipients are regular people who made brave choices.
- Find shared values like courage, commitment, and integrity.
- Build empathy and understanding of difference perspectives.
- Connect values to real-life situations, making learning more powerful and meaningful.

Research shows that students learn values more deeply when they connect with real people and real stories. Storytelling through the virtual recipient links can help students see how they, too, can live with character and purpose.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

You can provide students with these ideas, and there are also "Hints" provided in the interactive experience.

CHILDHOOD	What kind of child were you? What was your family like growing up? What did you do for fun? What were your friends like? What was cool when you were a teenager?
SCHOOL	What was your favorite subject in school? What kind of student were you? What advice do you have for high schoolers today? Where did you go to college?



THE MILITARY & THE VIETNAM WAR	How did you join the military? What was Vietnam like? What was your assignment in Vietnam? Did you ever think you were going to die?
MEDAL OF HONOR	Why did you receive the Medal of Honor? What were your feelings during your Medal of Honor experience? Why did you keep going back to save people? How did you get the news you were receiving the Medal of Honor? Tell us about the day you received the Medal of Honor.
POST-MILITARY CAREER	What did you do after you retired from the military? What do you do now? How has your life changed since receiving the Medal of Honor?
FAMILY	Tell me about your family. What does your family mean to you?
LIFE LESSONS	What do you feel is your legacy? Do you have any regrets? What is your message for the world?
PERSONALITY	What is your favorite color? What is your favorite dessert?

