Students create a multimedia project to document their class service learning project and share their results with the community.

**GRADE LEVEL:** Middle and high school

**TIME:** 60-90 minutes

**MATERIALS:** Your Stories of Change worksheet (download), internet access, tools for documenting your project’s progress, such as journals, cameras, tape recorders, and video cameras videos

**PREPARE**

1. Make copies of the worksheet, one per student. You may wish to review the sample worksheet, included at the end of this packet, and distribute it to your students for guidance.
2. Complete the community service project selected in lesson 2: "[The Five Freedoms: A Tool for Change.](https://newseumed.org/lesson/civil-rights-the-five-freedoms/)"
3. Collect needed equipment and materials to create the multimedia project.

**DO**

1. With students, search news media sites, including blogs, to find stories about local civil rights issues that grab the students’ attention.
2. Ask students: What elements of these projects make them attention-grabbing? *Answers include: color, font, word choice, music, video*
3. Then ask students: Which of these projects do you find trustworthy, and why? *Answers include: use of quotations and statistic, named and anonymous sources, inclusion of multiple perspectives, etc.*
4. Divide the class into small groups to create their multimedia projects.
5. Invite parents, peers and community members to see a presentation of your project.

**DISCUSS**

Have students present their panels to their classmates and discuss their findings. Prompts include:

* What is the same among each group’s work and what is different?
* Which tools and forms of media are the most effective? Why? Which ones were less effective? Why?
* Imagine you are not familiar with this class or your community in general. What would you learn from this panel? What questions would you have?
* What are the next steps you would take to expand this project’s impact?
* Do you think documenting the work your class has done is important? Why or why not? How could you make your documentation more effective?

**OPTIONAL EXTENSION ACTIVITY**

Sharing Your Story:Share the story of your project beyond the NewseumED online community. Plan an assembly or other event to share the story of your class’s work with others at your school or in your larger community. Have students determine what additional tools they will use to communicate the story of their efforts based on the format of your chosen event. For example, if you will be hosting an informal gathering, they may want to create a photo exhibit for visitors to browse. If you are hosting a formal assembly, they may want to write short speeches about their role in the project and its impact.

**Example Worksheet: Stories of Change**

*Before you begin creating your multimedia project, answer these questions.*

# What was the original goal of your project? Did you meet this goal? If yes, explain how. If not, why not?

We wanted to give computers to five students at our school who needed them. We wanted to donate 20 computers, but we’ve only been able to give away five so far. We were able to do this by using computers that our school didn’t need anymore. We want to give away more, but it takes a lot of time to fix up the computers and get help from the school’s administration in finding families to give the computers to.

# What was the hardest part of this project?

The hardest part of this project was figuring out who should get the computers. We had to work with our school’s administration to pick students who they thought would be good candidates to use the computers. We did not get to pick who should receive the computers ourselves, but we decided that was OK because it would have been a very difficult decision. It also took a long time to get permission from the school board to give away the computers that the school wasn’t using anymore. We had to write a lot of letters and make a lot of phone calls to get them to make a decision.

# What was the most rewarding part of this project?

It was very rewarding seeing how happy the students and their families were when they came to pick up their computers. One student said he never thought he’d be able to have a computer at home, and now he would be able to do his homework on the computer and play games.

# Who will this project affect and how?

This project will affect the lives of the students who received computers and their families. They will be able to do more of their homework at home and not have to worry about getting to a library or using someone else’s computer.

# What would you do differently if you worked on a project like this again?

If we did this again, I would like to have more people working on the project so that we could give away more computers at the same time. We had to do a lot of work to prepare the computers and train the recipients, and it would have been a lot more efficient if we could have worked on a lot of computers at once and then hosted one big training session for lots of recipients.

# What multimedia elements will you use to tell the story of your work?

We have photos and video from the training session we hosted for the computer recipients. We also have a video of a local TV news story that aired about our project.

# What are the three most important things you want to clearly communicate to people about this project?

* 1. This project cost very little money because we were able to use computers the school was going to get rid of.
  2. The students who received computers were very grateful and happy. Their parents were very thankful, too.
  3. Other students could do projects like this if they put in a little work, and it can really help people in their community.

# If you were able to continue this project, what would you do next to expand its impact?

The school still has more computers that aren’t being used, and we’d like to get permission to give away more. To do this, we will need to raise money to buy the parts needed to update the computers, and we will need to plan another training session. The most difficult part will probably be identifying more families to receive the computers, so we will need to work with the school’s administration again to find recipients.

# How will you divide your group’s labor to create this panel?

* 1. **Name:** Joe **Task:** Edit video from training session
  2. **Name:** Kate **Task:** Write description of what we did
  3. **Name:** John **Task:** Write description of project impact
  4. **Name:** Kelly **Task:** Gather photos and create website layout