

Participating in a Small Stones Interview: What To Expect

Who We Are and What We Do

Small Stones is a website (smallstones.org) where we curate resources and publish original first-person narratives in service of educators and students of all kinds. Narration is where our interviews—and possibly you!—come in. We solicit diverse first-person narratives related to education, civic-minded action, resistance, and anything else fascinating that falls into our laps. Our guiding beliefs and goals with respect to these narratives include:

- **History is personal as well as factual.** Facts and statistics are part of history, but so, too, is personal experience, otherwise known as ‘your story’ or ‘oral history.’ First-person stories are humanizing because we all have them, whether we are famous or not. We think it’s important to think critically *and* compassionately about individuals’ stories in order to understand our collective history.
- **Stories can be transformational.** People learn about themselves and the human condition by sharing, reading, and hearing stories. They also foster connection with others. We are living in a time that seems likely to make the history books, and we aim to foster a sense of agency in our narrators and ourselves via storytelling, in addition to influencing the way posterity sees this time.
- **Conducting oral history is an opportunity to honor a person.** We aim to be respectful, trustworthy, and accurate as we listen to and share our narrators’ stories. We think you will feel proud when you see your words on a page!

Our Process

When we interview you, we will record, transcribe, and edit the interview with a view to publishing it on Small Stones. However, you remain in control: you can call the process off at any time, you can edit the contents, and you can decide if and how you wish to be identified. Broken down, the process goes like this:

- **Emily or Eva will interview you.** The interview can be done in person, by phone/Skype/etc., or via written communication. We’ll chat informally beforehand to learn if you have particular topics in mind to discuss. It’s fine if you wish to take the lead in the interview; it’s also fine if you prefer us to lead. Usually, our conversations are a combination.
- **We will transcribe and edit the interview.** If you wish, we are happy to give you the audio recording and/or typed transcript for your personal use.

- **We'll send you the edited interview.** This is your chance to modify the interview. Many people want to add reading resources or provide additional context. We like to retain your speaking style but *do* remove most “umms” and “you knows”. We can polish the writing further if you wish. See below for more Questions to Consider.
- **We'll publish the interview online once you and we are comfortable with it.** We often do several rounds of edits. This is supposed to be a fun and collaborative process! If at any point you change your mind, we don't have to publish.

Questions For You To Consider

As you look over the edited interview, here are some questions to think about:

- **Did we transcribe the conversation correctly?** Do you see any errors? Omissions? Is there anything you want to change or add?
- **Do you want the interview attributed to you?** We can publish your interview anonymously (e.g. “A Teacher's Story”).
- **Do you want to link to any of your online “properties”?** For example, your website, Facebook page, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.?
- **Do you have pictures?** If you agree, we'd like to include your photo. Send us one you like! We can also include other photos you provide.
- **Are there other resources you want to share?** We're happy to link to articles, websites, reference sources, etc. that you recommend.
- **Are there ways for readers to get involved?** If readers are inspired by your story, is there anything they can do next? Places to read more, volunteer, donate, etc.?

That's it! Let us know how all this strikes you!

~ Emily and Eva

Updated 2/12/2018