

HUMANS OF CATHOLIC CENTRAL



Introduction

Brandon Stanton had the idea to take pictures of people he met on the streets of his city every day. As he took these photos of strangers, he would ask them questions about their lives. He combined these visual and verbal snapshots to create a unique portrait of his community. From this work, ***Humans of New York***, a hugely popular storytelling photoblog was born.

Stanton is neither a trained photographer nor a professional writer, yet he has created something very moving and important. His Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts have millions of followers. His book, a compilation of his pictures and stories, became an instant *New York Times* best seller. Other cities and organizations have started their own versions of the project, and you will be involved in creating one for our school.

1. Look & Read.

Access ***Humans of New York*** (HONY) via one of the following ways:

The official website: www.humansofnewyork.com

Twitter

Instagram

Facebook

Spend some time looking at the portraits and reading through the stories. Be sure to check out each of the three content areas: *Stories*, *Countries*, *Series*. Each of these sections offers something different.

2. Talk & Snap.

Choose three people (at least **one** must be an adult at the school).

Explain your assignment and get the person's permission to **take a photo**. Let the person know you will be submitting the photo and their responses to your questions for a school assignment. Their portrait will part part of a final "book" entitled "*Humans of Catholic Central*".

Ask your subjects two questions that prompts a personal response. You are striving to show what makes the people of Catholic Central High School special. Be sure to ask questions that go beyond one-word answers. This is a school assignment -- *so be careful that your questions target school appropriate subjects.* In other words, avoid overly personal, delicate, illegal or vulgar subjects! (Have a couple of different questions ready - a list of suggested questions is included at the end of the assignment.)

Take notes and decide what to include. Your subject's voice is unique and powerful. **You may want to record your conversation or take notes to ensure accuracy and authenticity.** It is important that you share his/her words in the same way that they are shared with you. Choose the content of your conversation that strikes you as the most interesting or that reveals the most about the person. There is a 200 word count minimum for this assignment - you can decide how you will meet this minimum.

*If you are unable to take a photo, or if you prefer to showcase your drawing skills, you may create an illustrated representation of your subjects.

3. Create & Share.

You will create THREE portraits - each with a picture and a story.

Create a Google document and copy your *Humans of Catholic Central* portraits there. Each portrait should consist of a photo, your interview questions and a response from the person. You will present the response as a direct quote. The quote may be a short answer for one person and a longer narrative for others. **Your project must include a minimum of 200 words total** (NOT 200 words per portrait). Feel free to write above the minimum - I hope you will!

Some Sample Questions to Consider (borrowed fromStoryCorp)

- *Who has been the most important person in your life? Can you tell me about him or her?*
- *What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?*
- *Who has been the biggest influence on your life? What lessons did that person teach you?*
- *Who has been the kindest to you in your life? How did they show that kindness?*
- *What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?*
- *What is your earliest memory?*
- *Are there any funny stories your family tells about you that come to mind?*
- *What are you proudest of?*
- *When in life have you felt most alone?*
- *If you could hold on to one memory from your life forever, what would that be?*
- *How has your life been different than you'd imagined?*
- *How would you like to be remembered?*
- *Do you have any regrets?*
- *What do you hope your future holds?*
- *If this was to be our very last conversation, is there anything you'd want to say to me?*
- *For your great-great-grandchildren listening to this years from now: is there any wisdom you'd want to pass on to them? What would you want them to know?*
- *If this was your last day on earth, who would you spend it with and what would you do?*
- *Have you experienced any miracles?*
- *What do you hope your future holds?*
- *Do you have a love of your life?*
- *What lessons has your work life taught you?*
- *If you could do anything for work, what would you do? Why?*
- *How did you meet your husband/wife?*
- *What is your most prized possession? Why?*
- *What is your idea of a perfect day?*
- *Is there a teacher who has had an influence in your life? What did you learn from them?*