



Quick Tips on Story Sharing

Everyone has a story to share. Follow these four easy steps to have your story part of this collection.

1. Download the VBP Conversion Kit so you have a set of questions to begin the dialogue.
2. Download a copy of the VBP Journeys Map questionnaire and get familiar with what you will need to submit. The form on our platform does not do auto spelling or grammar corrections. We recommend you save your own draft using Google docs or MS Word and copy and paste into the form when you are ready.
3. Review the quick tips below on how to gather key dates, locations and photos.
4. If you want to submit a story about a family member, from our experience, sharing is an ongoing process. So don't rush it! Take this opportunity to immerse yourself in their experiences and go through family photos together. You are likely to have multiple conversations. We recommend recording them on your phone if you can, and using the conversation kit as needed.

Before you begin to share a story, take a look at these quick tips.

1. **Dates & Locations:** The form will ask for important dates and places - for example birthplace, departure dates and locations, and refugee camp locations. While we understand that not all journeys are linear, please try to respond with as much information as you have, and choose the dates and locations that have the most significance to your story.

If you don't have these dates and locations readily available, we encourage you to ask family members questions to gather this information. The more dates and locations you can contribute will enable your story to be mapped and searchable for readers.

2. **Photo(s):** To share a story, you are required to upload a photo that is significant to the story. Be prepared to upload photo(s) (in JPEG OR PNG format) that have significance to you and the story.

Some examples are: family photos (from the past or present), something brought from Vietnam, handed down between generations, or even something new that reminds you of your family's diaspora story. Other examples can be as simple as photographs of places, a family recipe, heirloom jewelry, or an article of clothing.

If you are gathering a story from someone, ask the person if there are items that trigger memories or instill pride about their story.

3. **Story Writing:** You can tell a comprehensive story of the journey from Vietnam, or choose to tell a short story about a portion of your journey or something related to your photo(s). If you are gathering a story from someone, take a look at some sample questions below to help you get started.

We encourage you to Explore the Map to take a look at some of the posted stories as examples.

Sample questions during story gathering

We encourage you to use our Conversation Kit <https://www.vietnameseboatpeople.org/share> which was designed to help you start the dialogue. Below are some sample questions you can ask family members that will help you get started.

Dates & Locations:

- Where were you born? And/or where do you grow up in Vietnam?
- When did you leave Vietnam and from what city?
- Did you land in different countries or refugee camps along the journey?
- Where did you resettle to finally and in what year?

Memories of Vietnam:

- What do you remember about living in Vietnam? What was your favorite aspect of living in Vietnam? What was the hardest?
- How old were you when you (your family) left Vietnam? What do you remember the most?
- What was the motivation for leaving Vietnam? What was the hope?

Leaving and Adjusting:

- Who did you come with and who did you leave behind?
- What was the most difficult part about leaving?
- What was the journey like?
- Did you stay at a refugee camp, where and what was that like?
- What was life like for you (or your family) trying to adjust in a new country as a refugee/immigrant? What do you remember the most about that time period?
- Can you remember your most difficult times in a new country? Where did you find strength in difficult times?

Traditions & Reflections:

- What Vietnamese traditions have you continued with your family and/or children? And why are they important to you?
- What have been your biggest challenges?
- What have been your greatest sources of joy?