

5th Grade Interviewing Project with Elders

Hanover, NH, September 2026

Facilitated by World Story Exchange & Supported by Hanover Historical Society
In partnership with Bernice A. Ray School

In May 2026, Ray School 5th-grade students participated in an interviewing project with selected elders who grew up in Hanover, NH. Within their 5th-grade class, 83 students participated in a 3-day workshop to prepare and facilitate an interview with an elder about what life was like growing up in Hanover, NH (50-70 years ago).

Lindsay McClure Miller of World Story Exchange led students through a dynamic interviewing project. The project was also supported by Hanover Historical Society. Specifically, Betsy Gonnerman, Treasurer of HHS, identified the interviewees. A similar project was offered in 2024 and 2025 as an after-school elective. Due to the students' enthusiasm for interviewing, the project was integrated into the day school.

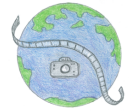
Four interviewees were selected to visit the Ray School to be interviewed by students during the interviewing project. Before their visit, Lindsay spoke with each participant by phone and confirmed their participation.

Throughout three workshop sessions, students:

- Learned the necessary skills to carry out an interview
- Were introduced to six different roles a student could do during the interview (Greeter, Interviewer, Production Manager, Technology Lead, Artist, Notetaker)
- Wrote interview questions for their interviewee about what life was like growing up in Hanover, NH
- Interviewed an elder who grew up in Hanover, NH
- Based on interest, students were assigned a role for the group interview (Greeter, Interviewer, Production Manager, Technology Lead, Artist, Notetaker)
- Carried out their specific role during the group interview
- Reflected on the project and their favorite aspects of the process
- Handcrafted thank-you notes for the interviewee, Hanover Historical Society, and HHS President Cyndy Bittinger.

This project was powerful for interview subjects, students, and staff. On the next page are quotes from the interview subjects, and attachments include students' notes, drawings, and written questions.

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Interview Subject	Reflection on the project
Betsy Hutchins	Hello! I had a great time! They were so sweet and welcoming! And I loved that many of the questions were personal. I did keep thinking of other answers, or clarifications as I thought back to the interview. I hope that they got the thank you note that I sent to them.
Margaret Caldwell	I loved the interview. Fun to hear questions that are important to them. All well organized.

Additional Attachments

Examples of Notes made by students during interview

Examples of Student Questionnaire

Drawings of each interview subject