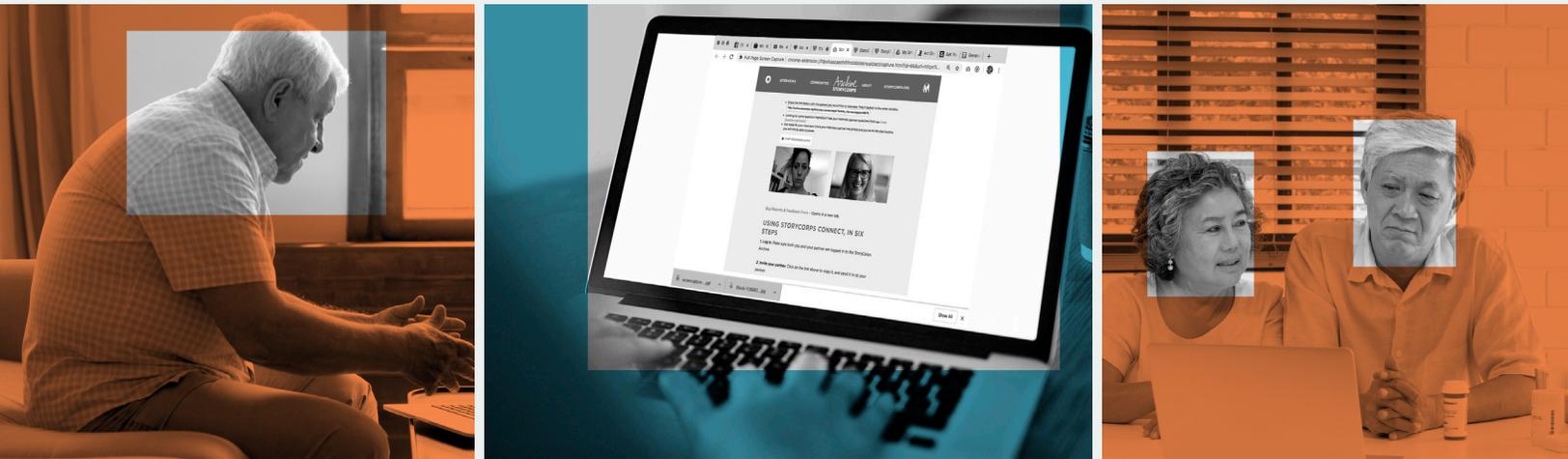


## AT-HOME RECORDING RECOMMENDATIONS



Recording a [StoryCorps Connect](#) interview is fun and easy to do on your computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. The most important part of the recording is the interpersonal connection between you and your conversation partners. Below, we've included some tips to help you record great-sounding audio.

### Technical Requirements:

You will need Internet access as well as a network-connected device such as a laptop or a desktop computer with a microphone and camera. Using a computer is preferable, but a smartphone or tablet will typically work if a computer is not available. We recommend using the Chrome or Firefox web browser. Whichever browser you use, please make sure that it is up to date.

### General Recommendations:

- ✔ We highly recommend using headphones if you have them and are comfortable wearing them. This will help prevent “echoes” in the recording.
- ✔ Consider using headphones or earbuds that have a microphone built in.
- ✔ If you are recording from a laptop, position yourself as close to the laptop as is comfortable for you.
- ✔ If you prop your device on a table, we recommend placing it horizontally and on top of a folded cloth, towel, or article of clothing.
- ✔ If you prop up your device on a table, we recommend placing it horizontally so as not to cover the device’s microphone.
- ✔ When recording with phones and tablets, please turn on Airplane Mode, and then turn on WiFi.
- ✔ We recommend sitting in a comfortable chair that locks in a fixed position.
- ✔ Make sure that your conversation partner can hear you before hitting “Record.”
- ✔ If you hear disruptive noises such as a microphone rubbing on your partner’s shirt, take a moment to resolve the issue.

## Selecting a Recording Space

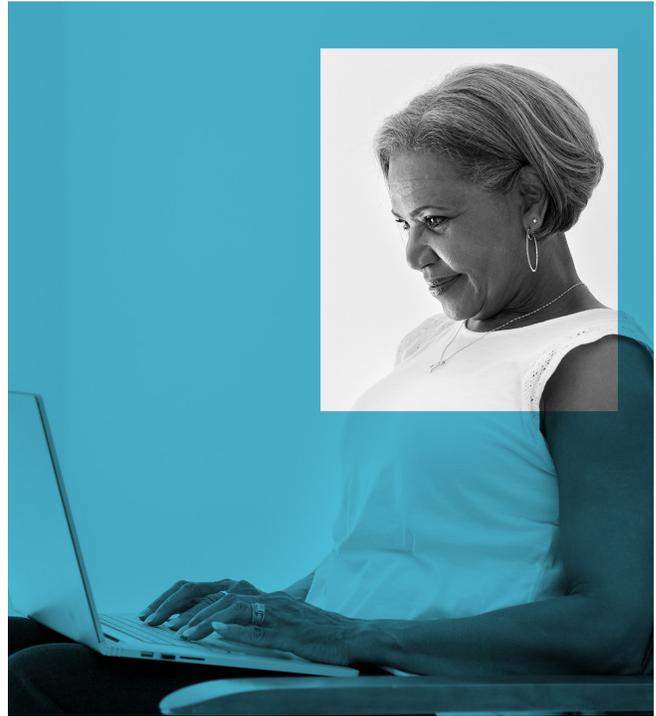
You may not be able to choose where you record your conversation, and if so, that's fine. If you do have more than one room to choose from, we recommend that you:

### ✔ **USE** a smaller room that has:

- Carpeted floors
- Drop ceilings
- Closed windows and heavy drapes
- Irregular shapes
- Full bookcases
- Hanging clothes

### ✘ **AVOID** using a room that is large and has:

- Uncovered or tiled floors
- High ceilings
- Square shapes
- Bare walls
- Big windows without curtains
- Noisy appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners



## External Microphones:

Adding an external microphone is not necessary to record a StoryCorps Connect interview, but it is an easy and relatively inexpensive way to improve sound quality. Made for Mac and PC computers as well as Apple and Android devices, microphones can be found at most electronics stores and online.