

**Workshop 1: Survivors****Extended Project****The Survivor Collection**

*What does it take to be a survivor? The answers may surprise you.*

**Project:** Interview someone about surviving a tough situation.  
Create an inspirational book with your classmates.

**Procedure**

- 1. Choose a person.** Who has survived a tough situation? Pick a classmate, a family member, or someone in your community. Ask if he or she would be willing to talk to you about an important event in his or her life.
- 2. Prepare questions.** Ask questions about your subject's experience.
  - Have you ever had to make a decision that changed your life?
  - Have you ever faced a tough challenge?
  - How did you feel about the decision or challenge?
  - Would you make the same decision today?
  - Are you happy with how you handled the situation?

Think of other questions. Write them all down on index cards.

- 3. Conduct the interview.** Conduct your interview in person, over the phone, or through email. Be prepared to take notes.
  - Remember to be a good listener.
  - Try to restate what you hear and ask follow-up questions. For example:  
"Your decision to move to a new state was difficult. Are you glad you did it?"
  - Thank the person.

- 4. Present your work.** Type your interviews on the computer in a question-and-answer format. For example:

**Your name:** Have you ever survived a tough situation?

**Subject's name:** Yes, when I moved to the United States.

Print your interview. Combine it with interviews your classmates did. Agree on a name for the book and design a cover page. Staple it all together and share your inspirational book with others.