**Lesson Title:** Rethinking the way journalism works in our communities

**Description of the lesson:** When we transform or open ourselves to new ideas that connect us to our communities, the ability to thrive is strengthened. We don’t have to look far to see its impact in history.

So how do we rethink our current news mediums to help build a stronger relationship?

If we take a look at television broadcasting, the push for a more loyal audience continues to be a priority. There are so many outlets where consumers can retrieve their news, but how can we rethink the way we package stories to an audience?

It begins with building loyalty with citizens on the ground, actively reaching out to educate on the impact storytelling has in our communities.

**Objectives*by the end of this lessons, students will be able to...***

* Understand the potential impact of community engagement on journalism.
* Identify and explore options as student journalists to engage citizens

Read and explore the following community engagement programs:

* [The Storytellers Project](http://www.storytellersproject.com/national/)
* [Gather, a platform for journalists working on community engagement, launches](http://www.niemanlab.org/2017/10/gather-a-platform-for-journalists-working-on-community-engagement-launches/)
* [Journalism Education that Inspires Community Engagement](https://knightfoundation.org/articles/journalism-education-that-inspires-community-engagement)

**ACTIVITY:**

Develop a project or public forum that would encourage community engagement in partnership with journalists. Develop an idea with the following concepts in mind:

* How can journalists work to give community members a voice?
* What can help build a strong and trustworthy relationship between citizens and journalists?
* How can journalists develop a better understanding of what’s “happening” in local neighborhoods beyond social media?
* How can the idea help to promote healthier newsrooms in the sense of building connections with its audience?