

Stories from the Valleys Education Pack



What is “The Stories from the Valleys” project?

Stories from the Valleys is all about bringing to light the everyday, yet important, conversations that occur in communities, schools, colleges, the workplace, sports clubs and beyond! The goal is to create useful material that can be used to encourage people to explore and understand key issues in their community, and to create new ways of addressing these issues together.

There are many ways to get involved in this project, from committing to a daily Learning Journal documenting your day-to-day experiences of learning and working, to going out and interviewing others in your local area about what it's like to take part in sports and activities, or about what living in a community means today.

Although we welcome applications from organisations, schools, colleges or workplaces to take part, you do not need to belong to one of these groups to participate. Maybe you left school early to work and earn money, or after years of working you're taking some time to give as a volunteer? Perhaps you're currently trying to find work through the job centre and are looking for something else to add to your CV? This activity area is about learning and living in the Valleys, whatever age, whatever background, we want to hear what it's like for you!

If you are an individual, then the purpose of this Education Pack is to help you access the Learning Journal to document your own learning experiences, and also to direct you towards other tools to go out into your area and get talking to those around you. We call this second method “Citizen Journalism”. Anyone can be a citizen journalist, by using our story collecting app, SenseMaker®, to record their interviews.

This story collecting method is based on twenty years of research and experience. We now we want to open this up as much as possible as a way of bringing individuals, communities, and governments together to understand what is going on, what is going well – what not so well – and what matters most.

What this means is that you will have access to the data collected by you and by others in your community, and there will be follow up events where individuals and groups can come together to discuss what happens next? The idea is that through collecting and sharing stories, communities are able to develop local solutions to local problems, and help influence government decisions by asking “How do we create more positive stories like this, and less negative ones like that?”

So, get involved, have your say, and make a difference
where it matters the most.

<https://valleysstories.com/en>

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What is in it for me?

As an individual

By completing a daily learning journal YOU will be in charge of documenting what it's like to be in education, work or looking for work in the Valleys. This is a chance to have your say and get your voice heard to help influence government decisions.

By becoming a Citizen Journalist, YOU can explore the key issues in your community. From sports teams to public areas to public transport, you and your community decide what is important, and work with others to do something about it.



What is in it for us?

As an organisation

The project aims to provide tools and training for people, communities, and organisations to engage in meaningful conversation through 'Citizen Journalism', as well as using the data collected to bring about positive local action, and to inform work and bids based on local evidence.

We are looking for schools, colleges, volunteer hubs, job centres: anyone and everyone can get involved.

As a collaborative project across the South Wales Valleys the information coming out of the project will be available to all those taking part. We are working to create a rich and varied set of information where people and organisations can make a small contribution of their time in return for access to something much bigger!

The information collected will also be used to inform the Valleys Task Force plan, using real life experiences to influence Government strategy.



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How do I get involved? What do I do?



Lots of options...

Whether you are an individual or part of a club or organisation, there are lots of ways to get involved. You can choose whichever option(s) you are most comfortable with, you can choose one or all of them!



Choose to keep a Learning Journal on SenseMaker®, i.e. share a story at least once a week. Once every two days is ideal. Daily, even better!



Use one of our other Community or Sports packs to share a story / share as many stories as you wish.



Choose to interview others for their stories – become a citizen journalist!



Share the URL links with your friends and family so that they can give their stories too.

If you would like help getting started please contact us at: hello@valleysstories.com

<https://valleysstories.com/en>

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Website Instructions

If you would like to give your entries through a web browser on a laptop or a computer please follow the instructions below.

To take part in the Learner Journal you need to first complete some questions about yourself **here**.

Please register and create a login name and password for yourself. Because some stories will be being shared at community events, we ask that you do not use your first name or any identifying information as a login.

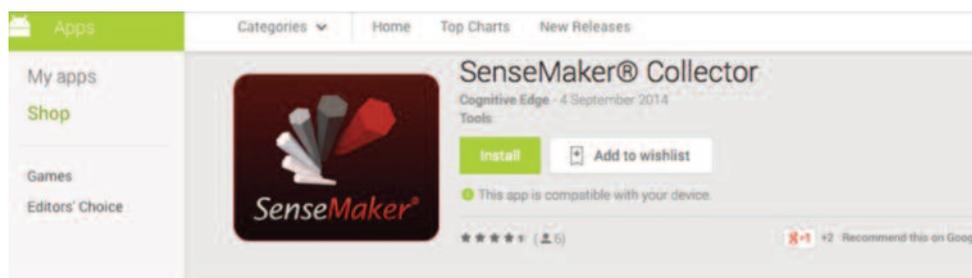
Once you have completed the demographic questions, please click **here**, enter the login details you've just created, and go ahead and share your stories every day!

App Instructions

If you would like to download the app onto your smart phone or Android device please follow the instructions below.

To take part in the Learner Journal you need to first download the SenseMaker apps onto your smart phone or tablet device.

1. Launch your iTunes/App Store or Play Store on your mobile device or computer.
2. Search for 'SenseMaker'.
3. You should see the following results.



SenseMaker
By Cognitive Edge Pte Ltd

Open iTunes to buy and download apps.



View in iTunes

Description

SenseMaker® enables organisations to better understand the environment in which they work by gathering the micro-narratives of day-to-day conversations along with answers to questions about shared micro-narratives.

Responses to different sets of questions about day-to-day experiences provide insights into the way people understand their world and identity across selected contexts.

As such, SenseMaker® provides an advanced decision-support tool for commercial organisations, NGOs and governments.

[SenseMaker Support](#)

[View More by This Developer](#)

SenseMaker Explorer
By Cognitive Edge Pte Ltd

Open iTunes to buy and download apps.



Description

SenseMaker® Explorer for iPad, provides access to material collected through SenseMaker® Collector for iPad and iPhone, iOS and web capture.

Through simple visual representations, it provides access and basic analysis of material collected with SenseMaker® Collector in the form of text, recordings and images. It is part of a suite of sense-making tools that provide quantitative approaches in what has been a qualitative field.

[SenseMaker Explorer Support](#)

[view more by](#)

<https://valleysstories.com/en>

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4. Download the one if you're on Android, the two if you're on iOS. Please note that the Android app is for collection only. The iOS apps provide data collection (Collector) – iPhone and iPad – and exploration (Explorer) – iPad only.

You will need to give some information about yourself on the pop-up screen. The last one of these questions will ask you for a "LinkID". For this, please enter the last 6 digits of your mobile phone number. We will not share this information with anyone, it just helps us to have a count of how many times one person gives a story.

Once you've completed this first step, please follow the instructions below:

1. Tap "Download Activities".
2. Enter activity code: "VTFDemo" (case sensitive).
3. Please then select "VTFDemo" from your downloaded activities and complete the questions that pop up on your screen.
4. Click once more on the "Download Activities" tab, this time entering in Activity code: "VTFLearner" (case sensitive).
5. You can now go ahead and complete your diary entry on a daily basis.

Thank you for taking the time to read through these instructions. Happy journaling!

Alternatively, if you are interested in becoming a 'Citizen Journalist' please go ahead and download one/ both of the Sports and community-based activities using the codes below:

1. VTFSport
2. VTFCCommunity

By using these codes, you can share your own stories and get out into your area and interview anyone with their permission. If you like you can have a look at the other areas of the website on Sports and Community to familiarise yourself with the topic areas or to get ideas of where you might want to go to, to collect stories. Happy Citizen Journaling!

"Exploring the stories of the past and present through the eyes of the future".



Contact

For more information please visit our website: valleystories.com/en

If you have any questions about the community – based efforts, get in touch with us at:
hello@valleystories.com

If you have any questions about SenseMaker® and the methodology, get in touch with our
Cynefin Centre contact, Jules.Yim: jules.yim@cognitive-edge.com

<https://valleystories.com/en>

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