YOUR DAY MATTERS

Share it with *us*, with your *fellow citizens*, and with the *future*.

Keep a diary of *ordinary activities* during your day.
Help identify the *common ground* among us.
Create a *historical record* of our everyday lives.

*Everyday Life in Middletown* is a place-making and community-building effort in which citizens of Muncie, Indiana, record their everyday lives via written, video, and audio diaries and questionnaires. It is a collaborative, public, creative project that aims to help remedy social isolation and to develop new ways of thinking about and making community.
OUR PROJECT

The Everyday Life in Middletown project is looking for volunteers to record their daily activities. Help us find the common ground that unites us all and create a record of life in the Muncie community.

We are gathering the many voices of Muncie to create a representation of life here and now, free of labels, stereotypes, and false oppositions. Participants in the project keep written, video, or audio diaries of specific days. The diaries are anonymous, but we share them publicly. Our goal is to create a rich historical archive that captures aspects of our lives that journalists and other observers often overlook. You can find more information on the project at http://bsudsl.org/edlmiddletown.

So far, we’ve collected diaries from more than 40 people. To read them go to https://edlm.omeka.net/.

Here is an excerpt from a diary by one of our volunteers:

The little one is stirred and is cross because I woke him from a nice dream. He’s still small enough that I can carry him, and for somewhat selfish reasons (it won’t be long before I can’t or he won’t want me to) I carry him all the way downstairs. He is warm and snuggly. Once he is effectively awake, I put his breakfast in front of him: one piece of buttered toast with peanut butter on top, and one piece of cinnamon toast—both cut on the diagonal. He eats this every morning without fail. He will not accept toast from me without the diagonal cut. I’ve always cut it this way, just as my grandmother always cut my toast for me. I some strange way it made it feel special, and he seems to have adopted this idea as well.

WHO WE ARE

Patrick Collier, Professor of English and project director, pccollier@bsu.edu
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HOW YOU CAN HELP

• Sign up to keep a written diary; submit detailed accounts of three days over the next year
• Share your everyday life with us in other ways: social media posts, video diary, audio diary
• Give us suggestions for capturing everyday life in Muncie – who should we talk to? What places are important? What groups can this project help connect?
• Suggest everyday topics you think we should explore, events we should attend, etc.
• Write an entry for our blog.

CONTACT us at edlmiddletown@gmail.com with questions, or if you would like to participate.