



Episode 2: PAPER

After Japanese Americans were released from incarceration, most of what remained were mounds and mounds of paper. Papers that told us about choices the incarcerated made, big and small. About how even in camp, people were still just being people. In this episode we're talking about paper—the stories it tells, the ones it doesn't, and what that says about power in historical narratives. See the full transcript [here](#).

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of “paper trail” do you have? What papers document your life? (Prompts: medical records, school records, birth certificate, etc)
2. Imagine that all of your purchases from a drugstore were saved for posterity. What would these receipts say about you?

Lesson Idea:

Search the [Densho Digital Repository](#) for one of the names below and see what you can find out about them by looking at their paper trail.

- George Kida
- Michi Weglyn
- Takami Hibiya
- Walter Matsuoka

For tips on how to search the Densho archives, please see [*Navigating the Densho Digital Repository*](#).

- What kinds of documents did you find?
- What is missing?
- Write a paragraph about what you've found and what it tells you about the person.
- What questions do still you have that weren't answered by the paper trail?

