Strive for College's I'm First! initiative is collecting stories from first-generation college students and graduates to inspire and offer advice to the next generation of students who will be first.

Stories come from people representing all walks of life - aspiring and current college students, college deans and professors, business leaders, doctors and lawyers, politicians, celebrities and beyond - all who share the common bond of being among the first generation in their family to go to and graduate from college.

TO SHARE YOUR STORY

1. Follow the instructions below to record a video and upload to YouTube
2. Visit www.imfirst.org/stories
3. Click the Share button to submit your video

TIPS & INSTRUCTIONS FOR CREATING A VIDEO:

Prepare your message
Begin your video with “My name is _____ and I’m first!” Then tell your story and offer some advice for students who will be the first generation in their family to go to college. If you’re an aspiring first-generation college student, say “My name is _____ and I will be first!” and tell us why going to college is important to you. You may wish to write down some thoughts to prepare.

Make sure we can hear you
We want to hear what you have to say! Pick a quiet place to make your video. Speak clearly and project your voice.

Make sure we can see you
Light should be on your face and not behind it — i.e. don’t sit in front of a bright window. If you like, wear your college sweatshirt or an I’m First! t-shirt.

Order at http://store.imfirst.org

Record your video and upload to YouTube
Use your webcam or smartphone to record the video. Please keep your video under 3 minutes in length. To upload your video, sign in to YouTube http://www.youtube.com/signin or create an account http://www.youtube.com/signup.

Add a title and tags
Title your video “I’m First” and include your first name and location – i.e. “I’m First: Matt in Bethesda, MD”. Include a short description about yourself and your video and use tags to describe your video so that other people can find it. Some tags to include are firstgen, imfirst, college.

License your content
When you upload your video to YouTube, select “Creative Commons – Attribution” under “License and Rights Ownership”. This will allow us and our partners to share your video.