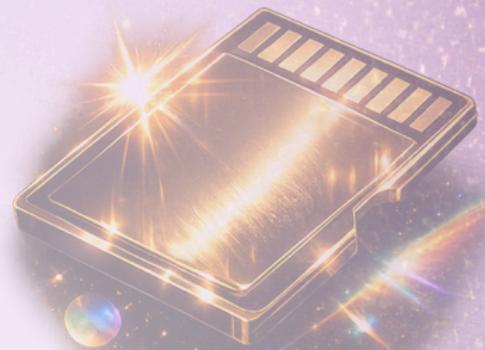


Project Brief

Our Golden Record



Exploring Community Identities Through Technology

Project Context:

Welcome to your role as an **Interstellar Cultural Ambassador!** In 1977, NASA launched the Voyager spacecraft carrying “Golden Records.” They were time capsules designed to show the diversity of life and culture on Earth to any alien intelligence that might find them. Those spacecraft are still traveling today, venturing further and further into deep space every second. As of February 2026, Voyager I is over *15.9 billion miles* from Earth!

Your team has been selected to **create a modern version** of this message, reflecting the unique identity of your **community** in the 21st century. Your message will launch on an upcoming space mission and live on a small space probe that will be sent to the outer reaches of our solar system and beyond!

Your work on this project will incorporate aspects of your community that you would like to represent. You will be making decisions at every stage of this project, starting with what we mean by ‘community’ and how you will be organizing project teams. This is your chance to present a **snapshot of everyday life**. It will not just be artifacts, but an authentic picture of what makes your community live and breathe. By making decisions about what to represent, you will be reflecting on your own lives and the connections we have to each other, our vibrant community networks, and the diverse physical environment we exist in.

The Challenge

How can we truly represent our community and potentially communicate about life on Earth with extraterrestrial intelligence?

This challenge requires you to collaborate as a team while thinking across diverse subject areas:

- **Social Studies:** Exploring your own cultural identities and individuality in order to define what “community” means to you. What communities are you a part of and how do they interact, intersect, and fit together?
- **Language and Communication:** Applying communication skills to think about different ways to speak to an audience, beyond written language.
- **Math:** Can you represent your world and communicate through symbolic language? You will also be using mathematical modeling to help keep to the physical constraints of the project.
- **Science:** Incorporating science and engineering ideas, such as exploring digital signals for long-distance transmission, and following an engineering design process to meet design criteria and address constraints.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this project, you will be able to:

- **Evaluate** what defines your “community” by creating and selecting material that will be communicated.
- **Produce** a range of media that communicates complex human concepts to an unfamiliar audience.
- **Apply** mathematical modeling to manage project specifications and constraints.
- **Conduct** sustained research into your community to present a multidisciplinary and multimodal digital artifact.
- **Demonstrate** effective teamwork and project management skills in project groups to meet a launch deadline.

Role & Approach

As Interstellar Cultural Ambassadors, you will work collaboratively to:

- **Week 1:**
 - Form teams, define your ‘community,’ and make initial plan.
 - **Milestone:** A Community Charter that outlines your team’s scope for the project.
- **Weeks 2-3:**
 - Collect media based on team scope and topic areas.
 - Identify knowledge gaps and plan for additional content creation.
 - **Milestone:** Curated artifact list with initial storage estimates.
- **Weeks 4-5:**
 - Consult stakeholders and AI Council for advice, feedback, and modeling.
 - Create, edit, and revise content in preparation for final presentation.
 - **Milestone:** Logistics Audit that models the storage, format, and physical constraints of the project.
- **Week 6:**
 - Compile final digital content, including an organized index.
 - Prepare and present to the Launch Committee.
 - **Milestone:** Golden Record Premiere, showcasing final product to the public.

Assessment Criteria

Authentic Research (25%)	How well artifacts honor local expertise and experience while avoiding stereotypes and generalizations.
Argumentation (25%)	How effectively the team justifies why items were chosen or created, using evidence from the research.
Technical Design (25%)	If the final product meets all technical constraints. If the material and presentation demonstrates visual appeal and accessibility.
Collaboration (25%)	Evidence of shared project responsibility and communication within the team. Evidence of incorporated feedback from stakeholders.

Key Resources

- 1997 Voyager Archive
- Nonfiction library and research materials
- AI Sandbox for Council stakeholders (teacher provided)
- Media editing software
- Logistics template