# Bookform
## Pilot Study Brief

## PRODUCT INFO

**Product Name:** Bookform

**Product Description:** Bookform is an online tool to guide students to collect their family's personal life stories, ancestry information and photos, uploading text and voice-to-text information. The tool automatically creates a printable digital book, which is offered as a pdf as well as for purchase. Students are given one year from their starting date to complete their family heritage book.

**Learning Focus:** Social-emotional learning; communication (interviewing, questioning strategies, listening skills and information-gathering); navigating the template and learning technology skills, example "uploading photos"; literacy and editing skills; relationship development with family members, instructor and classmates.

**Teacher Training:** The online instructor met face-to-face with Bookform's founder to gain an understanding of the underpinnings of the product. The instructor met with the founder via Skype during the middle of the course to discuss and update what was happening and

again at the end of the course to clarify and discuss the book-building process. The two communicated via email throughout the course to clarify concerns that came up.

The instructor created an online curriculum to support and enrich the Bookform experience through extending and sensitizing student-learning.

**Student Usage Minimum:** Six students (ages 12 – 18) met in a live one hour webinar weekly to discuss Bookform and their online curricular participation. Over 9 weeks, students had access to Athena's online curriculum that supported their learning about family heritage as well as their access to Bookform tutorials. They have access to the template for one year. They were instructed on how to reach out to Bookform for help during the remainder of their year if questions or problems arose.

**Device Specifications:** Bookform can be used on any device that connects to WIFI.

**Cost:** The individual cost per U.S. student was $5.

## DISTRICT CONTEXT

**District demographics:** Six students representing six different schools in the United States participated in this pilot. Their schools are located in the following states: California (4); Ohio (1), and Texas (1). Students used personal (or family) computers to complete assignments.

**Pilot demographics:** Six students (ages 12 – 18) participated in the pilot study. One instructor taught Bookform as an online course for Athena's Advanced Academy (CA, USA).

## PILOT GOAL

During an 8 week online course, students were introduced to and guided by an online instructor to begin building a digital family heritage book using Bookform.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**Duration:** 9 weeks May 20 – July 21, 2019. The 8 week course was extended to 9 weeks to accommodate a one week school holiday.

**Quality of Support:**

- Individual support was given to the online instructor. Specific technical concerns were addressed and responded to quickly through email.

- The instructor strongly supported iterative improvements to Bookform by researching and designing a curriculum to enrich and extend thinking about the importance of recording one's family heritage, and marketed Bookform through FB, LinkedIn and Twitter.

**Implementation Model:** Bookform was used as an individual product – students created their own family heritage book as an activity introduced and guided by an instructor teaching an online course.

**Data collected:** Pre- and Post-surveys; email to students and parents; Webinar discussions with the instructor and students; online prompts responded to by students; and virtual and in-person meetings between the product and instruction teams.

# FINDINGS

**Actual implementation model:** The Bookform Model was the core foundation for the online course. Each student built their own family heritage book.

**Educator engagement:** The instructor used the tool to create a mock-up example and shared screen shots with students in the online course webinars. The instructor researched and created 8 weeks of online curriculum focused on the Bookform Model lesson plans (scope and sequence) provided by the product team.

**Educator satisfaction:** The instructor was very satisfied with the Bookform piloting experience. The tool was satisfactory, with a need for improvement noted in the audio-text accuracy, and more edit control of the drag and drop landscape photo cropping feature. The instructor viewed Bookform as an opportunity to sensitize students to understanding how to listen and communicate with family members and the importance of writing down their family stories for future generations.

The educator added, "Everyone has a story. It's an honor for us to listen to family members tell and relive their stories. It's a moment in time where we can recognize and share important events in their lives. Just because someone is asking questions about a memory in your life makes you feel valued and that you do have something to share."

**Student engagement:** The extent to which students used the tool varied, depending upon their particular circumstances. One student completed a book midway in the 8 week course. Two students will not begin the interview process until late July/early August when they attend a family reunion in another state. One student completed at least one edited interview. One student lined up and scheduled her interviews with family members.

**Student satisfaction:** One student completed 76 pages and presented his book in a competition, earning a blue ribbon. His mother emailed that the competition members were "very impressed." He wants to continue adding to his family heritage book.

**Student learning:** Students learned to navigate the Bookform tool. Students reached out to family to interview family members. Students assigned work for their self each week and set their own personal short-term goals. Sharing these in the webinars made them feel more responsible for their learning.

One student shared, "I love how Bookform gives us an easy to use platform that facilitates making connections with family members. Since it's part of a class, I found it easier to reach out to them for stories of their lives. [My instructor] really helped me throughout the process and made it fun!" Another student added, "Basically, what I think is the importance of getting your stories from relatives is their unique perspective on things. Even if you did the same stories about a family dinner, different people will have a different perspective, like cousin Bob really didn't like the ice-cream or cousin Joe really enjoyed the baked crab and telling his stories from long ago. You'll get a different perspective each time as long as it's from a different person. "

One student said he will add records and newspaper clippings and photos in his Bookform book. This would add authentic primary source material.

# OUTCOME

**Purchasing Decision:** The instructor will offer Bookform again as an online course for Athena's Advanced Academy in the fall 2019 for upper elementary through high school students. Some students say they will purchase copies for family members as a thank you for their contributions to the book.