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Writing, Research, and Technology
Assignment #2: Oral History Research for Collaborative Project

Purpose: Record the oral history of one participant whose stories inform/shape your collaborative research project. This project should be posted under your Oral History tab and should be linked to an entry on your annotated bibliography page as one of your sources.

Focus: Your participant's most compelling story. You should have a focus for your interview questions and your research, but if other stories or themes emerge from your conversations, please follow those leads to see where they take you.

Data Collection and Analysis: The choices you make in presenting the data for this oral history should be grounded in your purpose as a writer and researcher, which, ultimately, impacts how you, your participant, and your audience make meaning from this project. You have two options for this project:

- Post on your website at least 30 minutes of video or audio from your one interview.
- Post a 500-word transcription of the interview (transcriptions should maintain the dialect and voice of the participant—don't edit for grammar or syntax, etc.).

Process: What follows is a suggested process:

- **Choose one interview participant and create a set of at least 20 questions to ask during the interview:** You do not have to know the participant. Consider interviewing someone from an older generation or different culture. If this person speaks a different language, see if you can record that language somehow as well.
- **Ask participant to sign release form for the interview:** You will be publishing this research online, so you must get your participant's approval beforehand. See Appendix 2 here for the release form: <http://tiny.cc/i6psi>
- **Conduct at least one 30-minute interview with one participant:** The interviews must be conducted in person or through Skype or Oovo (<http://www.oovoo.com/>).
- **Record interview:** Please record the video with a camera or digital audio recorder so you can publish a media file on your site and/or to transcribe after the interview.
- **Drafting:** When selecting and arranging your material, please be mindful of prevalent themes that emerge from the data (this will help you focus your presentation of the data). Also, ask yourself: **What makes this person's story worth recording?** If you cannot answer that question, dig deeper into the story and/or conduct another interview with that person or someone else.
- **Presenting:** Post the project to your website under your *Oral History* tab.

Product: Your final piece should be arranged in three main parts:

- **Part 1:** An **introduction/prologue** that describes the settings, the participants, and the goals you had for the direction of the interview and if the interview maintained that direction or went another place.
- **Part 2:** 30 minutes of unedited media clips or a 500-word transcription **on your website**.
- **Part 3:** An **afterword** that provides an update on the participants as well as your reflection on the processes of researching and composing this piece.

Audience: Please construct an oral history that appeals to the following audience:

- **Primary:** Our class
- **Secondary:** People who will visit your site and read the oral history

Oral History Process Summary: Nuts and bolts of what you are doing:

1. Interview at least one participant
2. The interview must be at least 30 minutes long
3. Must record interview with a digital camera or digital recorder
4. Publish at least 30 minutes of unedited audio or video clips on each of your websites under *Oral History* -OR- provide at least 500 words of transcription.
5. Link this project to an entry on your annotated bibliography page.