

**Oral History
Capturing Quarantine
Spring 2020
Final Reflection**

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DATE: May 15th, 2020

1. How did you feel when you read the email notifying students the oral history project would change from *Interfaith Chicago* to *Capturing Quarantine* due to the transition to remote learning?

I was happy to hear that the project was changed because I felt like *Interfaith Chicago* was impossible due to the situation presented. I also felt like *Capturing Quarantine* was a great transition- I think people will want to know what times were like during this pandemic.

1. What were your initial thoughts about participating in an oral history project documenting your classes' experience during the first months of the global pandemic?

My initial thoughts were how excited I was to be part of something that is so forward and happening to me and my peers. I felt like I could actually understand the project a bit more, although I was definitely skeptical about being interviewed.

1. How do you feel about the project now?

I am content with the project and think these will be a great resource to people trying to understand life during quarantine and the pandemic. I am happy that this was the final project because it was such a big part of our semester and it made it easy to connect with.

1. As an interviewer:

a. How did you prepare for the interview?

To prepare for the interview, I went over my list of questions several times, highlighting questions I felt were necessary. I did practice asking the questions, but felt as though it was hard to prepare without hearing the narrator's responses.

a. What was it like to interview a classmate?

Interviewing a classmate made things less intimidating. Having a familiar face on the other screen was comforting. I knew the narrator would be dealing with the same things as an interviewer so I didn't have as much anxiety about doing everything correctly.

a. How did you feel after the interview?

I felt good after the interview, because it was the big part of the project that I had finally completed. Most of the hard work was over and I felt satisfied with how I had done and the information that Nik gave me.

a. What is the most important thing you learned as an interviewer?

I think the more that I interview the better I will get. I think I learned how important it is to listen and understand the narrator. What they say needs to be understood so you can continue to ask questions that are engaging. I learned that people are easy and it's all about asking the right questions.

- a. What advice would you give to future interviewers?

Be confident and listen to what the narrator is saying!

1. As a narrator:

- a. How did you prepare to be interviewed?

I tried to go into the interview as clear minded as possible because I didn't want to rehearse. In normal oral histories, the narrator doesn't know much about the questions so I felt like I wanted to do my best to be neutral without an answer in mind.

- a. Describe your experience being interviewed.

I liked being interviewed more than the interviewer! I think this was because of how much pressure I felt for my interview to go well. Being interviewed, you're just there to speak and there are no wrong answers.

- a. How did you feel after the interview ended?

I felt excited to have the project finished and to be able to access mine and other classmates' interviews. I answered the questions to the best of my ability to I hope it turns out!

- a. What would you tell someone who is hesitant to be interviewed?

Do not be afraid to be interviewed! Just speak what comes to mind and don't be afraid to think about the questions. The interviewer is there to listen and not judge!

1. (OPTIONAL) Questions about narrators' private lives and personal relationships were not included in the formal interview, how do you feel about this?

I think it would have been good to include because it is such a big part of our lives. However, I think some of the questions may have touched on that depending on people's relationships or what they miss most about normal life.

- a. How has your gender, sexuality, race, and/or ethnicity affected your experience during the global pandemic?

- a. Exploring and developing new relationships is an important part of the undergraduate experience, how has this aspect of your life been affected?

I don't think my life has been affected with this so much but I relate because I miss socializing and creating new friendships, which is a big part of the college experience. If school is not back on campus next semester I will most likely be taking a gap semester and/or year. Being in that physical environment with other people is really important for me to succeed in classes.

- a. How are you dealing with the absence of physical contact?

I mostly miss being with my friends and spending time socializing. I miss hugs and being in close proximity with family and friends. It's really hard to think about how long this might last.

1. Is there anything else you would like to include?

Thank you Dr. McCarthy for all your help and being so flexible during this time!