

Oral History  
Capturing Quarantine  
Spring 2020  
Final Reflection

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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 relieved, honestly. I thought that the Interfaith Chicago project was going to be a lot harder if done remotely. A lot of the interviewees were on the older side and it felt like it was a situation ripe for messed up recordings or lost files. Capturing Quarantine sounded easier and that was a welcome change when everything else was getting harder.

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

I didn't give it much thought. I think it could be interesting some years off from now but currently it's just daily life so it's hard to really judge the information as valuable or not.

3. How do you feel about the project now?

It was enjoyable, I think I learned some stuff, glad I did it.

4. As an interviewer:

- a. How did you prepare for the interview?

I read over Quinton's bio data form several times and I tried to gather everything I could about him to better inform my question. I then refined my questions list three times to make sure I had everything I needed going in.

- b. What was it like to interview a classmate?

Quinton and I get along so it felt pretty natural and easy. At first it was a little awkward but once we got into it everything went fine.

- c. How did you feel after the interview?

I felt like I did well. I think I might've missed one or two opportunities to ask important follow up questions but our interview already ended up being over an hour long so I don't feel too bad about it.

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

Knowing exactly when to speak up and when to move on is crucial.

e. What advice would you give to future interviewers?

Pay attention to everything the interviewee says. Sometimes they'll answer a future question of yours in the answer to another question.

5. As a narrator:

a. How did you prepare to be interviewed?

I trusted that he would do a good job and made sure my family left me alone for at least an hour.

b. Describe your experience being interviewed.

I love talking and I can't really help myself when I get going on something. I happily answered all of the questions.

c. How did you feel after the interview ended?

Like I gave him enough and that I'd done a passable job.

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

It's relatively painless and you can give as long or as short answers as you want. Let the interviewer guide you.

6. (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's important to gather those prompts on a case by case basis. I talked to Quinton about his sexuality but I cleared it with him over the phone before the interview first.

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

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

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

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