

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

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DATE: 05/13/2020

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 both disappointed and relived by this news. We had already put in a lot of work for the interfaith Chicago project and I was really looking forward to speaking with my narrator. On the other hand, once news about the dangers of the virus spread, especially the dangers for the elderly population, I was relived that the interview topic switched.

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?

As more and more people became affected by the virus, either their health, career, or relationships, I was interested to hear from my peers about their experience. I also felt that I could relate to this topic better.

3. How do you feel about the project now?

I really enjoyed doing the project because I got to see a different side of my classmates experience during the pandemic. It was also nice to hear that many people share the same anxieties that I do and that I am not alone.

4. As an interviewer:

- a. How did you prepare for the interview?

I spent a lot of time thinking about questions. I curated them towards my narrator and thought about what questions I would want to be asked myself. I also communicated with Jay'La about her life before the interview to learn about her situation. This helped when making the script and it made me more comfortable when it came time to do the interview.

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

It was a great experience. I felt very calm because I felt prepared and comfortable with my narrator. I also enjoyed learning information about my peers that I never assumed I would have the chance to. It was also

fun to talk about the assignment and class with someone in the same position as me. With the last interview I am not sure I would feel as comfortable or have enjoyed the process just out of uncertainty.

- c. How did you feel after the interview?

I felt good! After I was the narrator I felt like time went by really fast, like I was able to fully tell my story, and I was happy with the questions I was asked. The interview I conducted was a bit more stressful because of time management and asking the right questions. I still feel like both interviews went well and I appreciated the experience.

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

I learned about the importance of preparation and about listening. When I was the interviewer I had to think of more questions because my narrator had some shorter responses so I really had to tackle on the spot questions. This was actually fun because I really had to think hard about a goof follow up that would allow more information and possible lead to a new and important subject.

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

I would say that prep is key. There is never too many questions to have on deck and the more information you can get from the bio-data form and follow up questions is key. I would also say imagine your own response to a question to see if it is good and interesting.

5. As a narrator:

- a. How did you prepare to be interviewed?

I thought deeply about my answers to the questions I was formulating so I could prepare to give thoughtful responses for my own interview. I also searched for things about my experience that might stand out from other students to help add more insight for the interview viewers.

- b. Describe your experience being interviewed.

I felt very comfortable with the questions asked and the interviewer. Snore did a great job keeping the conversation moving with well formulated questions and with thoughtful follow-ups.

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

I felt like the interview flew by and I was proud that we both successfully fulfilled our roles. We both put in equal effort to deliver a good and interesting interview that may enlighten future generations of listeners about the experience of life during a pandemic.

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

I would say that once you dive into the core questions, you feel more confident in the information you are sharing. Also people may find your life and experiences a lot more interesting than you think. Everyone goes through different challenges and sharing can deepen our understanding of these events.

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

I feel like this could have made the interview much deeper. If I were asked about my relationship with my significant other, I would have a lot to say about feeling distant and unsure of the relationship while being apart. You can learn a lot about a person through their relationships and this is an important aspect of life.

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

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

It set me back from finding a roommate to live off campus with because I commute to school and want to live closer to school next year.

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

I never realized how much I would miss hugging people or how many people I would hug on a normal basis. I think humans need touch in a lot of ways and it is eye-opening once you are restricted how weird it feels being so isolated.

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