

**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?

Personally, I felt relief. I was having trouble communicating with my original narrator, and I felt this project was more relevant to this point in time. It felt cool to be part of something important.

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 wondered if it would seem as professional on my resume. However, after giving it further thought, I realized that it would be a great way to engage in the time and in my school. Also, I am helping future historians understand how students felt during this time.

3. How do you feel about the project now?

I had a great time with it. I felt like the class uncovered great information about moving to remote learning. I would never trade this experience.

4. As an interviewer:

- a. How did you prepare for the interview?

I talked to Nick about his life, I reflected on my own experience with COVID and remote learning, I did research on what other students are experiencing, and I reflected on the interview techniques we learned in the textbook.

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

It felt very personal. With somebody older than me, it would feel more formal. While the interview was still formal, Nick being the same age as me gave me more of a connection to him.

- c. How did you feel after the interview?

I'm really happy with how the interview went. I think Nick provided a lot of great information.

- d. What is the most important thing you learned as an interviewer?
How to delve deeper into the lives of people around me.
- e. What advice would you give to future interviewers?
Practice interviewing on your friends before you interview officially.
5. As a narrator:
- a. How did you prepare to be interviewed?
I looked at my questions and tried to think about how I would answer if I was asked them by Quinton.
- b. Describe your experience being interviewed.
It was exhilarating. It felt great to think through my life and opinions.
- c. How did you feel after the interview ended?
I felt clear-minded about my experience during COVID and my opinions on dealing with it.
- d. What would you tell someone who is hesitant to be interviewed?
It's magical, and it doesn't take long to open up, so long as you let yourself simply begin to talk and answer the first question.
6. (OPTIONAL) Questions about narrators' private lives and personal relationships were not included in the formal interview, how do you feel about this?
It would be a great addition. Maybe, before the interview, the interviewer can ask the narrator if this is a comfortable subject.
- a. How has your gender, sexuality, race, and/or ethnicity affected your experience during the global pandemic?
It has, but I can't say I'm completely aware of exactly how. I am lucky to live in a middle-class family, who can get through this period decently with less income. As for the rest of the categories, this is something to research. But I believe they play a role in everything.
- b. Exploring and developing new relationships is an important part of the undergraduate experience, how has this aspect of your life been affected?
As far as my friendships go, as a person who is TERRIBLE with their phone, it has been a little difficult keeping in touch with everyone. I have had to put some extra effort into this. As for as my S.O., she is living with me. We'll see how things play out over the next few months. Living together is new. In many ways, we have grown closer. In other ways, many potential problems come out, and we've had to evaluate just how big these problems are. Being

quarantined together gives you only small amounts of alone time to reflect, and you have to go the extra mile to get the consolation of friends. But fingers crossed! We've shared many great times living together, and I hope it stays this way.

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

I don't have an absence of physical contact. My mom does not permit sex in the house, so we've needed to be a little sneaky (just like high school); but where there's a will, there's a way.

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

This was a very memorable class. It has been one of my favorite experiences at Columbia.