

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

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Section I:

1. Thinking back to the start of the semester, what were your initial thoughts about participating in an oral history project documenting your experience during the ongoing global pandemic?

I was honestly more than a bit nervous. It's a bit daunting to hear that you'll have to have an interview recording of yourself uploaded online for everyone to see.

2. How did your feelings about the project change?

As the class progressed, I started to enjoy preparing for the interviews more and actually began to look forward to doing them. Though, I was still incredibly nervous about actually doing the interviews.

Section II:

3. As an **interviewer**:

- a. How did you prepare for the interview?

I first was assigned my narrator, then I filled out a bio data form and timeline. Later on, I started on my script, and after five drafts, I had the completed product that I would use in the interview.

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

It was very interesting. Being the youngest in the class, I got to learn what this experience and college as a whole is like for a student older and in a higher year than me. It was also interesting to hear about the details of the life of someone I spent every day in a Zoom call with.

- c. How did you feel after the interview?

After the interview, I mostly thought that it felt shorter than I thought it would. Aside from that, I guess I felt relieved and sort of accomplished that I had done something like that, and also, I felt really happy and satisfied with the information I had gotten.

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

I'd have to say the most important thing I learned is to wait and listen. You're never going to learn anything of substance (especially not about another person) if you're constantly talking and waiting for your own chance to say something. It's honestly really fulfilling to just sit and listen to someone talk to you once in a while without trying to get the next word in.

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

I'd tell them to not stress over having to sit in front of the narrator (or, in this case, computer) for a long period of time, because it won't feel as long as you think, and you'll be getting something out of it: new information.

4. As a **narrator**:

- a. How did you prepare to be interviewed?

I guess I kind of just asked myself what kinds of questions I'd be asked during the interview, but other than that, I just waited.

- b. Describe your experience being interviewed.

This also felt way shorter than it was (and shorter than being an interviewer). Also, while a bit nervous, I was excited to be able to talk about my experience with this pandemic and other things that you don't really get asked regularly.

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

After it ended, I felt relieved and satisfied with the answers I gave. But later on, I started getting in my head about the responses I gave and wondered if I should have said things differently.

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

I would say that it's alright to be nervous, but just know that it's actually a pretty fun experience, and if there's things that you're not comfortable sharing, you can always just say so.

Section III:

5. What information is missing? What else do you think those trying to understand the pandemic should know?

I think that others trying to understand this pandemic should also understand how it affected people. This virus and this whole period in history shouldn't just be viewed from a scientific or political standpoint. In the future, I want people to know how it impacted us for better and/or worse.