

**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?

Initially I thought this was an important project to be a part of. I wasn't hesitant or worried about sharing my experience. I didn't quite understand all that was involved in an oral history project, but now I can confidently say I do.

2. How did your feelings about the project change?

My feelings about the project didn't change much. I still think it's something that is important and interesting to document. The only thing that has changed is realizing how clinical the project is, and how that can tarnish the depth of the interview at points.

Section II:

3. As an **interviewer**:

- a. How did you prepare for the interview?

I re-read my scripts, reviewed old text messages I had with my interviewee and reviewed class notes.

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

It was familiar. I've done a lot of classmate interviews in other courses, so this felt similar to that.

- c. How did you feel after the interview?

I felt annoyed. Mostly because there were parts throughout the interview, I would have liked to converse with my interviewee more, but I knew wouldn't be appropriate since this was an oral history interview.

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

I learned patience and that breaks in sentences can be a good thing.

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

For future interviewers, I would say don't get too in your head during the interview. Take your time, take a breath if you're confused or seem overwhelmed. Thirty seconds of silence, while you're collecting your thoughts, reads a lot better than 30 seconds of verbal confusion on your end. Additionally, do what feels natural. If your interviewee says something you believe merits a response from you, say a one sentence response. Trust your gut, and believe you know what you're doing because you do.

4. As a **narrator**:

- a. How did you prepare to be interviewed?

I made sure my internet connection was strong, advised my roommate to be quiet, and made sure I had nice lighting in my space.

- b. Describe your experience being interviewed.

My experience was positive. It felt nice having someone seem interested in my story and viewpoints.

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

I felt good. I also felt bad for my interviewer because I talk a lot and I knew she would have a lot to transcribe.

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

It's merely a conversation. There's nothing to worry about because you already know all the answers about it since it revolves around you. Also, this isn't a critique on how interesting or knowledgeable you are about certain subjects. If you don't read/watch something the interviewer asks about, it is completely fine to say you don't do those things.

Section III:

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

I feel like financial situations. I know that's incredibly personal, but it clearly does impact how one is navigating through these tough times. For instance, are students living at home and reaping the benefits of free meals and laundry? Are students living in a dorm where they don't have to worry about expenses? Are students living off campus on their own without assistance from their family? Are students living off campus with assistance from their family? Are students living at home but are required to help their family with meals and bills? These are all scenarios to consider and I think they heavily influence the way we are all trying to survive during this time.

