

Oral History  
Capturing Quarantine  
Spring 2020  
Final Reflection

NAME:

DATE:

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?**

When thinking about the beginning of the semester, I felt overwhelmed by the idea of participating in an oral history project as my schedule was so busy. I was worried I would not be able to put in the time and effort expected of me, but everything ended up going well. But I was nervous, about this idea-- I remember thinking to myself "what did you get yourself into?."

**2. How did your feelings about the project change?**

As the class progressed my feelings and thoughts were quickly changed. I felt extremely excited as I was learning about what oral history is and its components. It ended up being a remarkably interesting aspect of my daily life that I looked forward to. The people in class also made it a feel-good, pleasant experience, less so stressful.

Section II:

**3. As an interviewer:**

**a. How did you prepare for the interview?**

To prepare for the interview, I read over my questions, made sure the lighting was good, and that no one was home. My mom and sister left the house to go grocery shopping as my brother was sleeping because he was tired after work. It all ended up working out well! I tried to control what I could do in my environment.

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

It was an interesting experience, as I got to know someone well, which is something that is difficult with online classes. It was great listening to what they had to say and really be present at that moment.

**c. How did you feel after the interview?**

I feel relieved, like a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. Trying to schedule the interview was so difficult as we are both such busy people. But we made it happen.

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

You really must listen and have no distractions. That was so helpful to focus on what was happening in the interview. Usually when I am in class I have so many distractions, my siblings, my dog, phone calls from colleges, or bosses. It felt unplugged.

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

Everything that you learn in class, is so beneficial—so do not take it for granted. To do all the assignments. Do not complain. The transcription is tedious, but needs to be done.

**4. As a narrator:**

**a. How did you prepare to be interviewed?**

Again, I made sure to be able to control the environment I was in. Since this interview, I was going to talk more and seen more, I made sure not to look messy. I made sure to have a basic top and background.

**b. Describe your experience of being interviewed.**

It was so fun. It made me think of things and questions I have never thought about, which got me emotional. It was hard to talk about my father's passing and how that made me feel, but it felt good to get that story out to someone that does not know me from that time.

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

So happy to have had it completed. The interviews were something I was anxious about as I wanted to do well but as a narrator, I also had no idea what was in store!

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

Just be yourself! It is so fun talk to talk about yourself! This is something not to worry about! The more difficult part of the process is the preparing of the interviewer. The interviewee has the easy job of answering questions and being honest.

**Section III:**

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

Everything was talked about. It was all catered to what each person went through. There is no need to add things, especially if they did not go through the event. Those questions and answers would not be as interesting for anyone as the answers would be dry and short.