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Writing, Research, and Technology
Assignment #2: Oral History Project

Purpose: Record and edit the oral histories of two participants whose stories inform/shape your collaborative research project.

Focus: Your participant's most compelling story. You should have a focus for your interview questions and your research, but if other stories or themes emerge from your conversations, please follow those leads to see where they take you.

Data Collection and Analysis: The choices you make in presenting the data for this oral history should be grounded in your purpose as a writer and researcher, which, ultimately, impacts how you, your participant, and your audience make meaning from this project:

- Present two unedited 30-minute media clips of your two interviews on your website.
- Present an edited 5-10 minute oral history video clip or audio clip on your website (this could be linked to YouTube) for both interviews – OR – present two 500-word transcriptions from each interview.

Process: What follows is a suggested process:

- **Choose two interview participants and create a set of at least 20 questions to ask during the interview:** You do not have to know the participant. Consider interviewing someone from an older generation or different culture. If this person speaks a different language, see if you can record that language somehow as well.
- **Ask participant to sign release form for the interview:** You will be publishing this research online, so you must get your participant's approval beforehand. See Appendix 2 here for the release form: <http://tiny.cc/i6ps1>
- **Conduct at least two interviews with two different participants:** The interviews must be conducted in person. Follow-up questions can be asked in a second in-person interview or through Skype or Oovo (<http://www.oovo.com/>).
- **Record interview:** Please record the video with a camera or digital audio recorder so you can publish a media file on your site.
- **Drafting:** Craft an edited media clip or 500-word transcription that emerges from your interviews (transcriptions should maintain the dialect and voice of the participant—don't edit for grammar or syntax, etc.). When selecting and arranging your material, please be mindful of prevalent themes that emerge from the data (this will help you focus your presentation of the data). Also, ask yourself: **What makes this person's story worth recording?** If you cannot answer that question, dig deeper into the story and/or conduct another interview with that person or someone else.

- **Presenting:** Post the project to your website under your *Oral History* tab. We can further discuss ways in which you can combine technological texts with traditional texts so your paper can be presented in the most relevant and meaningful ways.

Product: Your final piece should be arranged in three main parts:

- **Part 1:** An **introduction/prologue** that describes the settings, the participants, and the goals you had for the direction of the interview and if the interview maintained that direction or went another place.
- **Part 2:** Two unedited media clips with edited versions and/or transcriptions that you can post to Oral History page **on your website**.
- **Part 3:** An **afterword** that provides an update on the participants as well as your reflection on the processes of researching and composing this piece.

Audience: Please construct an oral history that appeals to the following audience:

- **Primary:** Our class
- **Secondary:** People who will visit your site and read the oral history

Oral History Process Summary: Nuts and bolts of what you are doing:

1. Interview at least two participants
2. Each interview must be at least 30 minutes long
3. Must record interview with a digital camera or digital recorder
4. Publish the unedited audio or video clips on each of your websites under *Oral History*
5. Publish either a 5-10 minute edited version of each interview or transcribe at least 500 words from each interview. The edited clips and/or 500-word transcriptions can be published on the same page as the unedited works. Otherwise, you can create a new page labeled *Edited Interviews* or *Transcribed Interviews*