



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT Health, Health Care, Caregiving OR Moving

BACKGROUND

Health care is often in the news: the Affordable Healthcare Act (aka “Obamacare”), the cost of prescription drugs, the challenges of caring for older family members, etc. At some point in our lives we will all be caregivers or we will be in need of care. These times in our lives present us with challenges and stress as well as opportunities to grow and mature.

Also, moving can provide interesting stories as well. Sometimes a move from a small apartment to a house can mean the world to a family, giving them a feeling of freedom and new opportunity. Or a move across the country or the globe can raise logistical challenges (what do we take? what do we leave behind? how do we move our stuff?) and emotional and cultural challenges as well.

These are the two topics from which you may choose to focus your interview.

PROJECT GOAL

To interview a family member, neighbor, friend, or acquaintance who is 40 years or older (the older the better) and to learn about a time in this person’s life when their health or a family member’s health issues were central to their daily life (or to learn about a time when they moved from one home to another).

Requirements for Interview Subject:

- must be 40 years or older
- must be willing to talk to you honestly about his or her experiences
- speaks English well and is in no need of translator
- must be willing to be interviewed for between 20-30 mins. in length (though you will only type between 1250-1750 words of the full interview, which you will edit down to a 700- 750-word oral history)

STEP ONE: Plan the interview (do prior to April 30)

Begin by thinking of questions you can ask. Below are some examples of possible questions. You don’t need to ask all of these questions, but some of these questions – or variations of these questions – are obviously crucial questions. You must also ask follow-up questions during the course of the interview. Follow-up questions are those which you create on the spot during the interview as you want to know more about a certain topic. Remember, your goal is to ask your interviewee to share in some detail a time

in their lives when health concerns and care were central to their daily lives or for someone in their family (or to have them share stories about a time when they moved).

Before you even begin asking these questions, remember to first state your name, the date of the interview, the interview location, and then state who you are interviewing. Remember to check out the Minnesota podcasts for more guidance here: <http://education.mnhs.org/immigration/podcasts>

BACKGROUND

What is your full name? When were you born?

Have you ever married?

(If yes) What is the name of your spouse?

Do you have children?

Do you have grandchildren?

What cultures/ethnicities do you identify with (family background)?

Tell me about your parents.

Where have you lived during your life?

Where do you live in the city now? Have you lived in multiple areas? Do other family members live in the same area?

EDUCATION AND WORK

Where did you attend school? What were the names of the schools?

Did you pursue any postsecondary educational programs or vocational training? If so, what?

Name programs, if applicable.

Did you attend/graduate from college?

Name programs and years if possible.

What was your first job?

What other jobs have you had and what do you do now? How did you come to do this work?

YOUR HEALTH

What major illnesses or health problems do you remember having?

Do you have any health problems that are considered hereditary in nature? If so, what are they?

How have these health issues impacted your life or those in your family?

What kind of treatment did you seek for this/these concern(s)?

How long did you seek treatment? How effective was the treatment?

How did others in your family or circle of friends help you during this time?

What, if anything, was positive about dealing with this health concern?

What are your experiences in accessing quality, affordable healthcare?

Whose health care you responsible for besides your own?

HEALTHCARE FOR OTHERS IN YOUR FAMILY

Is there anyone in your family who has had a major illnesses or health problem?

Who is this person, and what was their condition or issue?

How did this health issue affect them?

How did this health issue affect others?

Please describe the care or treatment plan they used to address this health concern.

What role did you play in dealing with this health issue?

What role did others in your family play in dealing with this person's health issue?

What was the outcome of this health concern?
What, if anything, was positive about dealing with this health concern?

MOVING

What “move” would you like to discuss?
Where was the home where you lived before the move?
Describe this home for me -- size, layout, location/neighborhood, etc.
What did you like best about this home? Least?
Why did you move?
How was this decision made? Who made the decision?
Was this a move you wanted to make? Why or why not?
What did you enjoy most about this home and neighborhood?
What did you enjoy doing in your home and neighborhood?
How long did the move take?
How did you pack? Who was involved?
Did you take everything with you to your new home?
What did you leave behind?
What did you do with the items you left behind?
Describe moving day.
Where was the home where you moved to?
Describe this home for me -- size, layout, location/neighborhood, etc.
What did you like best about this home? Least?
How long did it take to get fully moved in?
What did you or your family do to make this new home your own?
Did you have any regrets about the move?
How long did it take for you to adjust to this new home and neighborhood?
How many other moves have you made in your life?
How was this move different or similar to other moves you’ve made?
What are your feelings now about moving? Is it something you’d want to do again?

INTERVIEW CONCLUSION

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

STEP TWO: Do the interview (audio recording due in class May 1)

Do the actual interview, which must be a minimum of 20 minutes long. Record this using audio or video w/audio. Test out your recording technology to ensure that it will work and properly embed in Google Sites. The sound file must be able to be heard clearly and must be capable of being fast-forwarded (**m4a files recorded in Apple Voice Memo do not have that capability**) – mp3 files or files uploaded to SoundCloud will work fine.

- *Have someone take a picture of you with your interview subject either before or after the interview. If you are doing this via Skype (or another similar app), include a picture of you sitting at the computer with Skype on and the person visible in Skype on the computer screen.*
- ***You must also take some video of you conversing with this person. This should be spontaneous conversation about any topic you like; a minute or two of conversation is fine. Save this video so that if we need to ask you for interview verification, you can show us the video. You will not include this video on your Google Sites page.***

STEP THREE: Type the interview (due May 8)

Type up a question/answer transcript that is verbatim (word for word of the conversation) of several portions of your interview. Choose portions of the interview to transcribe that are most relevant to the topic and which contain the greatest amount of narrative (lengthy talking).

Sections that you do not type you will summarize in [brackets] by writing something like “[Ms. Juarez then talked about her childhood experience of playing outside in the fields near El Paso, Texas.]”

We should see follow-up questions throughout the interview. Make sure you spell all words correctly and that all of the punctuation is done correctly. The portion you type (including questions, answers, and bracketed section summaries) must be between 1250-1750 words. You will show us the typed Q/A in class (in Google Docs) on this due date. No need to print it.

STEP FOUR: Create an edited oral history from the Q/A transcript from Step Three

Edit the transcript down to just the interviewee’s words. This is what we call the oral history. You will need to move parts around, incorporate some of your questions into the text, and take out irrelevant or unimportant parts. While you may add a word or two to function as transitions within the oral history, do not use phrases/sentences in this oral history that do not appear somewhere in the transcript of the interview. **Word count: 700-750 words**

STEP FIVE: Write your introduction to the oral history

Write a 400- 450-word introduction to the oral history which sets up the interview and provides some background on the person you are interviewing and the topic. In this introduction, you must identify the person, their relationship to you, and provide a description of where they grew up. You can use some partial quotes from the actual interview. Better introductions will also include some historical facts about the time period and some facts about the health condition(s) they discuss (or some details relevant to their move). Include relevant hyperlinks. End with a sentence that segues into your interview. Sometimes a full-sentence quote from them can work well, or you can write your own sentence . . . something like, *“And while my aunt says that she is happy to have escaped the challenges she faced as a young mother in war torn Iraq, part of her wishes she had stayed in Iraq to continue caring for her ailing father.”*

STEP SIX: Create a Google Sites Page (due _____ at 3 p.m. whether you are in class or not)
See directions below re: how to create your Site.

STEP SEVEN: Turnitin deadline

Turnitin.com deadline for the Q/A (don’t upload the intro or the edited transcript) is _____

Grading Rubrics

Point Range

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 19 – 20 | Fulfills well and perhaps exceeds all criteria listed above and in the rubrics below. |
| 17 – 18 | Fulfills all of criteria listed, but not with consistent success. |
| 14 – 16 | Fulfills most of the criteria listed, or all, to some degree of success. |
| 12 – 13 | Fulfills some of the criteria well, but fails to meet most standards listed. |
| 11 – below | Fulfills few of the criteria or does so with poor attempt. |

Oral History Writing Rubric (writing grade for English and History)

(Must meet word count – 1250-1750 words for Q/A and 700-750 words for oral history– for C or higher)

- Questions are asked in logical progression; follow-up questions seen throughout interview.
- Questions are relevant to topic and ask for reflection and comment.
- Typing of transcript shows care in transcribing. Few to no errors in punctuation, spelling, or sentence construction.
- Q/A is periodically broken up by interviewer’s summary of what was left out of the typed text (in order to make the Q/A portion make sense)
- Text sounds like real conversation and not something that was written out as a play and then read aloud.
- Oral history text editing shows care and creates a narrative story which flows well.
- Introduction writing follows well the directions and sample.

Google Sites Rubric (project grade for history and English) -- Site must be shared to cdavis@gusd.net (block 2) or jdavis@gusd.net (block 3) by 3 p.m. on _____.
Failure to do so will result in a grade no higher than a 10/20 for the Site grade.

- Intro effectively describes the person you interviewed, their relationship to you, where they grew up, etc. This writing should show some historical knowledge about the time period and what it meant to be a woman in this place and time.
- Intro writing is nearly flawless, no significant errors.
- Page has an appropriate title at top, is intuitive, easy to use, graphically interesting and easily readable.
- Audio/video file properly embedded near top of page (as mp3 or SoundCloud / YouTube embedded link), and images match quantitative and qualitative requirements described above.

Google Sites Directions

While logged in to your student account, go to *sites.google.com*

Click on Create (in new Sites)

Give your Site a title, such as *Oral History*.

Add an appropriate image to the title page (best image would be of you and your interviewee), give your oral history a title. A subtitle would also look nice.

Below that, embed the audio file (either the mp3 or the Soundcloud file, **not m4a**) so that the audio file can be heard directly in the page and you can advance and rewind the audio.

Below the audio file, add the introduction writing (400-450 words). The Q/A transcript hyperlink could also be here, or you could put a hyperlink as a separate page somewhere easily visible near the top.

Below the intro, add your oral history text. The text must be in multiple paragraphs with no indents.

Add a minimum of four original pictures by adding a subpage or by integrating these into the main page. Requirements:

- All photos need captions explaining the photos.
- Photos which illustrate some of the points in the oral history are the best ones to use.
- One image must be of you with the person during the interview (either in person or on the computer), and the other photos must be of your interview subject – preferably photos from that time period they are describing, people they talk about. . . any photos they have that help to tell their story.
- Non Copyrighted images from the Internet are permissible if you already use four original images. You could also add a map and/or a video if your wish.

SUPER IMPORTANT!!!

When you are finished with your work, click on Publish. In the Web Address line, name your site *oral history*. On the “Share with others” menu, change the “Published” settings to “Specific people can view when published.” Under “Who can view my site,” click on MANAGE and invite **Mr. Davis (cdavis@gusd.net) [block 2]** or **Mrs. Davis (jdavis@gusd.net) [block 3]**.

Leave the box checked with “Notify people.” Leave the setting at “Can edit.” Do this by 3 p.m. on _____ whether you are in school this day or not.

To view Mrs. Davis’ site, go to <https://sites.google.com/view/thedavisdiaries/oral-history> (you will need to log in to view the site)

Project Checklist

- ___ Oral history page has a fitting title at the top.
- ___ Functioning audio file is embedded (not requiring the opening of a new page or link) near the top of the page and is easily accessible. If more than one file, the files are in order. If the file is a private YouTube (or other file format) video or audio file, it is made accessible for us to listen to. File should be mp3 or SoundCloud embedded file.
- ___ Introductory writing is between 400-450 words.
- ___ Introductory text is written as multiple paragraphs and not just one long paragraph.
- ___ Introductory writing creates an interesting introduction to your oral history and follows the project directions. This writing should show some historical knowledge about the countries where this person lived and the time period. May be in first-person or in third-person point of view.
- ___ At least one image is shown near the top of the page (most appropriate would be a picture of you and your interviewee)
- ___ All images are not stretched, a decent size.
- ___ Excess space between lines is removed.
- ___ Oral history text is written in multiple paragraphs and all text is flush left (no indents)
- ___ Oral history Q/A is 1250-1750 words (or just *a bit* over).
- ___ Portions of the Q/A that are not typed are concisely and accurately summarized [in brackets] so that the text flows as a well-told story of one's experiences.
- ___ Interview text is formatted as a dialogue with clear distinction between interviewer and interviewee (**bold** and non-bold, for example)
- ___ Text is in a font choice / size / color that is easy to read.
- ___ At least four original images relevant to your interviewee and topic (one of these images must be of you talking to your interviewee; the other three images could be images that your interviewee provided to you or that you took of your interviewee or of some object related to their story).