

# Peer Interview Assignment

**Due date: Friday September 16, 2016, noon**

This assignment give you practice conducting oral history interviews. To complete it, you will conduct an oral history interview with a peer from within this class and write up a short reflection on the process. You are responsible for turning in the following on Blackboard:

- Audio recording of an interview with a peer in this class
  - Reflection paper on the interview process
1. Before
    - a. Review pages 6-9 of the assigned reading by Marjorie Hunt (“Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interview Guide”)
    - b. Find a way to make a digital recording of the interview. If you have a smart-phone, your phone may have a built in audio recorder. If not, you may download a free recording app [I use the app “Recorder” on my iPhone]. If you do not have a smart-phone, come see me and I can lend you a digital recorder.
    - c. Practice using your digital recorder.
    - d. Find someone in this class to pair up with and interview each other. That way you will have practice interviewing as well as some sense of what it feels like to be interviewed.
  2. During
    - a. The interview will be on the topic of relationships to the place the interviewee is from. Conduct the interview using the questions below as your guide, in addition to the tips in the reading by Marjorie Hunt. Cover all themes listed below, but feel free to put the actual questions in your own words. Expect interviews to take anywhere from 30-90 minutes. Be sure to obtain your partner’s permission to be recorded before you begin.
  3. After
    - a. Save the audio file with the following naming convention:
      - i. FirstNameofINtervieweeLastNameOfInterviewee.DateofInterview.ByLastNameOfInterview. So, if Suzy Johnson had interviewed Alana Park on September 6 of 2016, the file name would read as follows:  
AlanaPark.9.6.16.ByJohnson
    - b. Write a 3 page, doubled spaced mini-essay reflecting on the interview process. Be sure to address the following questions
      - i. What did you learn from the interviewee?
        1. Discuss any themes that came up, interesting facts or stories.
      - ii. What went well about the interview?
      - iii. What didn’t go well?
      - iv. What would you do differently next time?
    - c. Upload the audio recording of the interview and your reflection paper onto Blackboard.

- **Theme: Relationship to place**
  - Possible Questions
    - Where are you from?
    - What was it like there when you were growing up?
    - When did your family first move to that neighborhood?
    - How has the neighborhood changed since your family has lived here?
    - What does being from there mean to you?
- **Theme: Environment**
  - Possible questions
    - Were there any waterways near where you lived? (lakes, streams, rivers, ponds, oceans...)
    - Do you spend any time near \_\_\_\_\_?
    - What does living near \_\_\_\_\_ mean to you?
    - Do you have any concerns about pollution in this area?
- **Theme: Civic engagement**
  - Possible questions
    - Were you active with any neighborhood organizations?
    - Which ones?
    - What did you do with them?
    - How long were you involved with them?
    - Are your family members active with any neighborhood organizations?
- **Theme: Development and change**
  - Possible questions
    - What has your experience of development in the area been like?
    - How has development impacted your life? What are your hopes for the future of this neighborhood?

**Follow up questions:**

- Can you give me an example?
- What was that like?
- How did that happen?