

Oral History Profile

Spring 2018

Subject Chosen: 3/29

Interviews Complete: 4/10

Edited Interviews Uploaded to Dropbox: 4/19

In-class Presentations: 4/24, 4/26, 5/1

****no extensions****

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ 30 min. – 1 hr. interview with subject; friend or family member who can offer insight on topics we explore in this class
- ✓ Release form signed by interview subject (on our class website)
- ✓ Two-page, double spaced, background on interview subject and how s/he relates to this course
- ✓ Edit entire interview to a 10 minute audio file that highlights the most important or most interesting moments (use Audacity or other sound editing software)
- ✓ Upload to Dropbox by 4/19
- ✓ In-class presentation required, including a summary of the subject's background and playing of a portion of the edited mp3 audio file
- ✓ Each student must choose a separate individual to profile: choose by 3/29 (bring list of top three choices to class)
- ✓ Download and read oral history handbooks from the Smithsonian and the Oral History Association by 3/29.

This writing assignment challenges you to relate an oral history to the literature and history you learn during this semester. Since the 1930s when the narratives of former enslaved individuals were recorded, the taped interview has proven its worth as a means of acquiring the historical accounts of all people, including those unlikely to leave written records. Thus historical research has the potential to become more egalitarian, allowing scholars the ability to record and express many viewpoints.

As you conduct this project, consider how the written form of expression differs from the oral. What does the oral/interview form offer you (the audience) that a written work does not? Also, consider the Chicana/o literary works we have read this semester as you choose an interview subject. What issues explored in written work also appear in your individual's interview? To what new issues does your interview introduce you? We will discuss these and other questions at the conclusion of this project.