**Oral History Project**

**Due: March 12**

**Your project for this 9 weeks is to take an oral history. This means that you will have to interview and record someone who was old enough to have lived through the turmoil of the second half of the 20th century. – find someone who is 70 years old or older (That means they must have been born in 1950 or earlier). You might get the best results if you interview someone you know personally, but you do not have to. If you are having trouble finding a person to interview, check out your church/ synagogue, talk to your parents – finding the person is part of the assignment.**

**The interview should be between 25-30 minutes and recorded. In addition to a recorded copy of the interview, you must transcribe the interview (type it out – word for word). Here are some things you should keep in mind when interviewing someone**:

* **Start this early and be flexible with your schedule** – do not wait until the last minute and expect to get an interview with someone or that they will conform to your schedule.
* **Be polite and courteous** – remember, they are doing you a favor.
* **Make eye contact when speaking with your interviewee.**
* **Give them your undivided attention** – Do not use your phone or get distracted when you are interviewing.
* **Let them speak freely** – do not interrupt or get impatient with an answer.
* Ask one question at a time, and feel free to go into more detail and ask other follow up questions.
* If the interviewee does not want to use their name, that’s fine. Use a false name or their initials.
* Let them know that the conversation will be recorded and transcribed for an assignment.

YOU MUST TRANSCRIBE THE INTERVIEW IN THIS FORMAT:

**Interviewer:** Question…

**Auntie:** Answer…

**Below is a list of required questions that you must answer, but you MUST also ask your own questions in addition to these.**

Required Questions-- remember, follow up questions are required!

1. When and where were you born?
2. Where did you grow up?
3. Describe where you grew up.
4. Can you tell me about your family? (With whom did you live as a child? How many brothers or sisters did you have? What has happened to them?)
5. Did you live in an apartment or a house? Can you describe it?
6. What was your childhood neighborhood like? What was it like to be a kid then?
7. What were your schools like? Was your school integrated? If so, how integrated? If not, were there any integrated schools where you lived?
8. What was a typical day at school like?
9. What did you do for entertainment as a kid and young adult?
10. What type of music or musicians was popular when you were growing up?
11. Did the area you lived in pay much attention to the Civil Rights Movements, its leaders, or its protests?
12. When do you first remember learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement?
13. What did people say about King? What did you think about him?
14. What were you doing when you found out Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated?
15. Did you watch or see any civil rights protests when you were growing up (in the news or in person)? Do you remember how people reacted to these protests?
16. Did you or anyone you knew ever participate in any of the civil rights protests? If so, where and when did it take place? Why did you participate or not participate in any protest?
17. When do you first remember learning about Malcolm X? What did people say about him? What did you think about him?
18. How did your immediate and/or extended family feel about the Civil Rights Movement and its leaders?
19. How did your hometown change during the 1960’s? Did it change?
20. Do you remember the assignation of President Kennedy? What do you remember?
21. Besides the civil rights protests, did you or anyone you know participate in other protest movements?
22. Did you or anyone you know serve in Vietnam?
23. What are your remembrances of that war and those times?
24. Do you have any opinions of presidents Johnson or his Great Society programs?
25. What do you remember about President Nixon and the Watergate Scandal?
26. What do you think is the most significant change during your life time?
27. Is there anything else you would like to share with me?

YOU NEED AT LEAST 5 FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS in addition to the questions above.

The assignment:

After you conduct the interview, transcribe it as explained above. You will turn in the transcribed interview. If I have questions about the authenticity of the interview, you will have to play the portion in question -- or the entire interview -- to me.

The second part of the assignment is to write a one page reflective piece answering the following questions:

1. How did this interview enrich your understanding of American History?
2. What are some benefits and drawbacks to conducting oral histories?
3. What are some things that have happened during your lifetime that you might tell a future student about?

Grading:

I. The interview counts as 60% of the grade.

\*I will read the transcript.

\*If you have just the questions listed above, you will get a 40/60 on this part of the assignment. If there are at least 5 legitimate follow up questions, you will get 60/60 for the interview.

“Legitimate” means that some thought is involved. For instance if someone was born in 1948, don’t ask them about FDR or the Great Depression…they cannot possibly remember those events because they were not born yet.

\*When typing the transcript, be mindful to use proper spelling and capitalization. Failure to do so might result in the transcript being returned for re-typing (resulting in the project being late).

II. The reflection part will be worth a total of 40 points.

The reflection must be typed using 12-point type and double spaced.

It must be at least 300 words

Each typo/grammar error will cost 2 points.

The project is a test grade.