

Directions:

Part One: Oral History Procedures

1. Explain the use of oral histories-- they bring history to life and they provide historians with valuable primary sources about the past.
2. Have students arrange an interview with a family member about their childhood. The students will give a five minute presentation about their interview. In the presentation, the student will discuss what they learned from the interviewee and how they incorporated oral history techniques in the interview.
3. Homework- Have students prepare questions for the interview.
4. General Overview
 - A. Setting up the Interview
 - 1) Call the person to be interviewed in advance to set up a time to conduct the interview.
 - 2) Inform the interviewee about the nature of the interview so that he/she can be thinking about his /her recollections of the subject matter.
 - 3) Find out as much background information about the interviewee as possible.
5. Doing the Interview
 - A. Before starting the interview have the interviewee sign a release form. (See sample form)
 - B. Make an outline of points that you want to cover before the day of the interview.
 - C. Start interview by asking general questions about the interviewee's background such as:
 - 1) When were you born?
 - 2) Who were your parents?
 - 3) What was your profession or your responsibilities at home? How long were you employed and what capacity did you serve in?
 - D. Ask specific questions.
Example: Instead of asking what someone was like ask what they did for a living. (Ask class to give more examples of specific questions that can be asked).
 - E. Ask questions that do not require lengthy answers. In short, ask questions that will help keep the interviewee on the subject at hand.

Oral History Resources:

Kyvig, David E. and Myron A. Marty. *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You*. 2d ed. American Association for State and Local History Book Series. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2000.

Oral History Association: Click on this link to view guide from the Oral History Association. http://www.dickinson.edu/oha/pub_eg.html

Part Two: Practicing the Interview

1. **Play Clip D** [Minutes 2:01] of Mack Hopkins interview.
- 2.
3. Ask students to evaluate Dr. Johnson's techniques.
4.
 - a) Were Dr. Johnson's questions consistent with oral history protocol?
 - b) Did he give Hopkins time to answer?
 - c) How did Hopkins respond to Johnson's questions?
 - d) If you were conducting this interview, what would you have done differently, if anything?
5. Suggested Activity: Divide students into groups and have the students interview one another by using the questions from their homework assignments.

Part Three: Class Presentations

1. Have students give their presentations about the oral histories they conducted.
2. After the presentations, ask students to write a one page paper that discusses what they have learned about the Tuskegee Airmen, segregation, and oral histories.

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERVIEWEE DONOR AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made as of the ____ day of _____, ____, between _____ (referred to below as Interviewee), and STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY (referred to below as University) relating to a manuscript in interview form entitled _____, dated _____, and various dates, and the recording tape from which said manuscript was prepared (both of which are collectively referred to below as the Work.)

In consideration of the following mutual promises and agreements of the parties hereto, it is agreed as follows:

1. Interviewee's Grant. The Interviewee hereby irrevocably grants, assigns, and transfers to the University, the exclusive rights to publish the Work and all rights to said Work: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the University shall, upon request of the Interviewee, or of any of his or her children, reproduce at a reasonable charge a reasonable number of copies of the Work as such person may from time to time request for the exclusive use of members of his or her own family.
2. Warranty. The Interviewee warrants that he is co-author of the Work with full power and authority to make this assignment to the University, and will do nothing that will in any way interfere with the full enjoyment by the other of the rights conferred by this Agreement.
3. Notification and Editing. Prior to any publication of the Work, the Interviewee will be notified at least thirty (30) days in advance of said publication. It is agreed between the parties hereto that both the University and the Interviewee shall have the right and privilege of editing the manuscript prior to any publication thereof. "Publication" as used herein shall mean the making and issuing of copies of the Work, or any portion thereof, whether issuing is the sale or gift of said copies.
4. No Obligation to Publish. In no event shall the University be obligated to publish the Work.
5. To the extent this provision is allowed by State law, the University will not release this work until the following restrictions are met:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this instrument the ____ day of

_____, ____.

Interviewee _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Interviewed By _____