Honors LA 10 Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

November 27th, 2013

Oral History: Pre-Interviews

**Introduction**: This pre-interview assignment will help you decide which of your story leads could make a good focus for the oral history collection we will be starting in December. There are three parts to this pre-interview assignment: ranking the leads you collected last week, choosing your three top possibilities from among them, and sketching out a plan for conducting your pre-interviews.

**\*\*\*This packet is due Monday, December 2nd at the beginning of class\*\*\***

**Part 1:** **Ranking Leads**.

1. Are there any other ideas that you didn’t list on your Oral History Idea Collection sheet from last week that you could consider or investigate? Describe them briefly.

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1. Using the five leads you generated on your Oral History Idea Collection sheet (or others that you noted above), complete the two tables below that ask you to rank your interest in each of the possibilities you listed, as well as the potential obstacles in collecting these stories.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ranking** | **Name of interviewee** | **Justification of ranking –** be detailed and thorough. Explain *why*. |
| 1 – Most interesting to you |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 – least interesting to you |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ranking** | **Name of interviewee** | **Justification of ranking -** Consider measurable obstacles (location, physical limitations, language, etc), as well as less-measurable obstacles (your relationship, emotions, reluctance to share, protectiveness, etc) |
| 1 – Most potentially difficult to collect |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 – Least potentially difficult to collect |  |  |

**Part 2: Top Choices.** After completing the tables above, consider both your interest in them and the obstacles that may come up for each one. Choose what you think are the three best options (the definition of “best” is up to you, but it should mean whatever options give you the best chance of successfully collecting a story worth saving), and draw a star next to them.

**Part 3: Pre-Interviews.** You’ve already decided on your own that you have at least three oral histories worth investigating (which you starred above). Before conducting the official interview in December, you will approach each potential subject and conduct a pre-interview. You must determine whether there is a story to be told, how worthwhile it might be to collect it, and whether the subject is willing to tell it.

Respond to the following question in a journal entry titled **Pre-Interviews**.

1. For each of your three top interview possibilities, consider your interest in the story and the obstacles to each story that you recorded in the tables above. What pre-interview questions do you need to ask to decide if you want to pursue an official interview, and if that interview is possible? Create at least five thoughtful questions for each potential interview subject, that will help you decide whether they will be the subject of your OH project.
2. For each possibility, describe when, how, and where you could best conduct their interviews, if you choose them for your OH project. Face to face? Over the phone or on Skype? By email? How would you preserve the interview - a recorder? A video camera? Hand-written or typed notes? Draw up an outline for how you would officially interview them.

 

**Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break! Next week we will:**

* Conduct pre-interviews and decide on an official interview subject
* Draw up an interview plan for our final subjects
* Look at more examples of Oral Histories
* Begin interviews!