

GENERATION TO GENERATION:  
A BEGINNER'S ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP  
February 3, 2011

1. Write the name of someone who you would like to interview?

2. What is the purpose of this interview? What kind of information are you trying to obtain from them?

3. What generation does your subject represent?  
What information would be helpful to know about their coming of age?

4. Will using a biographical form be helpful?

5. Will conducting background research help prepare you for the interview?

\_\_\_\_ Chronology      \_\_\_\_ Community & local history  
\_\_\_\_ Genealogy collections/Family files

6. Begin your list of questions for your interview.  
(Try open-ended and factual/informational)

General oral history topics

\_\_\_ Early Life

\_\_\_ Neighborhood      \_\_\_ Education/Local Schools

\_\_\_ Hometown history      \_\_\_ Marriage & family life

\_\_\_ Migration/Relocation      \_\_\_ Vocation/Family businesses

\_\_\_ Church & Community life

7. When will you conduct the interview? Where? How long?

## ORAL HISTORY TOPICS

Birthplace  
Siblings & Family  
Neighborhood & Hometown  
Church Life  
Migration/Relocation  
Education  
Jobs & Career  
Military Service  
Family History  
Wedding, Marriage & Raising A Family  
The Single Life  
Celebration of Holidays  
Historical Events (Depression, WWII, Integration & Civil Rights)  
Milestones & Challenges  
Philosophy & Values  
Cars In the Family  
Folklife (Crafts, Customs, Foodways, Language, Music, Storytelling)  
Technology (electricity, phone, radio, car)  
Hobbies & Sports  
Travel & Vacation  
Community Service & Civic Life  
Family Business

ORAL HISTORY RELEASE FORM

I \_\_\_\_\_ (interviewee) hereby give to \_\_\_\_\_  
(interviewer) the original tape recordings and transcripts of our interview conducted on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date) at \_\_\_\_\_ (place).

I authorize \_\_\_\_\_ (interviewer) to utilize this interview, in whole or in  
part, for history or family history projects, including the possible publication of history or family history books  
and articles.

I further authorize \_\_\_\_\_ (interviewer) to donate said interview, tapes,  
transcripts, or materials derived therefrom, to a historical archive (to be determined) for future educational and  
scholarly purposes.

I voluntarily relinquish any rights to this interview, tape, transcript, or material derived therefrom.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(interviewee and donor)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(interviewer and recipient)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** You and your interviewee may negotiate alterations to this form as you see fit.

You are free to copy this form for personal use. For an example of how to fill in, see page 137. © 2000 Katherine Scott Sturdevant,  
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