

How to interpret an oral history

Interview with:

Interviewed by:

Topic:

Date of Interview:

Place of Interview:

Collection of::

WARM-UP

Briefly interview another classmate about the most important event he/she has witnessed. Take notes on your interview:

What problems and challenges did you have getting information from your partner?

1. Read the primary source interview. Briefly summarize the content of the interview.

2. What was the best question the interviewer asked? Why was it the best?

3. What was the worst question the interviewer asked? Why was it the worst?

4. Did the person experience the events as a participant or spectator?

How does this affect the way the person being interviewed remembers the event? Cite specific evidence from the source to support your answer.

5. What was the purpose of the interview? How do you know?

6. How does this source differ from a textbook description of the same event?

7. How can the textbook and the interview together contribute to your understanding of the event?

What is the most important historical information this source provides? Be sure to cite specific evidence from the source.
