

Gathering Your Community's Stories

Gain a unique perspective on your community's history and cultural identity by gathering oral history interviews. Oral history interviews generate valuable first-hand documentation on families, neighborhoods, workplaces and schools, and ethnic and cultural groups that can be used in myriad ways by schools, libraries, and other local institutions. The workshop introduces the layperson to the process of collecting oral history and focuses on a critical phase of the process, the interview.

Audience: teachers, curriculum specialists, staff development trainers, media specialists, librarians and university instructors

Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Build rapport with an interviewee;
- Use interview listening skills to promote interviewee comfort and participation;
- Ask powerful questions that elicit strong responses.

Tasks in Brief

- Practice techniques to build rapport.
- Practice body language conducive to interview listening skill development.
- Develop open-ended questions to produce complete interviewee responses.

Resources

American Folklife Center: [Explore Your Community - A Community Heritage Poster](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/poster/posterhome.html)

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/poster/posterhome.html>

American Folklife Center: [Folklife and Fieldwork: A Layman's Guide to Field Techniques](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/)

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/>

Learning Page Lesson: [Grandparent/ Elder Project](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/grand/)

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/grand/>

Learning Page Collaborative Activity: [Interviews with Today's Immigrants](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/interv/index.html)

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/interv/index.html>

Learning Page Lessons: [Learning About Immigration Through Oral History](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/97/oh1/ammem.html)

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/97/oh1/ammem.html>

Learning Page Lessons: [Living History Project](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/97/florida/home.html)

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/97/florida/home.html>

Learning Page Lessons: [Using Oral History](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/oralhist/ohhome.html)

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/oralhist/ohhome.html>

American Folklife Center: [A Teacher's Guide to Folklife Resources](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/teachers/)

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/teachers/>

American Folklife Center: [Veterans History Project](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/)

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>