

# Oral History

## Tips for working with students and schools

1. Start small-work with a few students and a teacher.
  - a. Decide on a topic area, veterans, local history, family heritage, grandparents etc.
  - b. Decide on the questions to ask and the length of the interview.
  - c. Have students practice on each other-use “growing up” as the focus.
2. Preparing for the interview.
  - a. Review the questions, practice asking the questions informally and formally.
  - b. Practice listening to the responses, so that questions don’t get repeated.
  - c. Staying on script-keep the focus on the questions, refrain from interjecting your opinions.
3. Record the interview
  - a. Written highlights of the interview and reflections.
  - b. Audio recording, simple digital recorder with a high quality microphone.
  - c. Video recording, digital camera with input for microphones and headphones.
  - d. Pick the environment for the interview-quiet, comfortable, uninterrupted space.
  - e. Know your equipment, check and double check media and sound, make sure you are recording the interview.
4. After the interview
  - a. Debrief with the students, what went well, what could be improved?
  - b. The actual interview, make sure you make a copy for your subject, for yourself (backup and archiving, find a great place to store the copies).
  - c. Share the interviews, full interviews or clips from the interviews, web site or in-class, make sure you have permission. Full transcripts or recording of the times of each question?

### Equipment suggestions:

#### Camera:

Sony HDRXR260V High-Definition Handycam 8.9 MP Camcorder with 30x Optical / 55x Extended Zoom and 160 GB Hard Disk Memory (2012 Model)

#### Microphone:

Audio-Technica ATR-3350 Lavalier Omnidirectional Condenser Microphone

#### Headphone:

Sennheiser HD 419 Headphones, Black

#### Tripod:

Pearstone VT-2100 Fluid Head Video Tripod

#### Cell phone recording -microphone device:

Saramonic SmartMixer Professional Recording Stereo Microphone Rig for iPhone & Android Smartphones

#### High quality audio only recorder

Zoom H5 Four-Track Portable Recorder