

Using Technology
The oral history interview
March 28 2018 1-3 pm

“How do we make sense of all of this stuff?”

Setting the technological stage for your interview- audio or video ? “It is about the sound!”

- Cell phone-using an app, or direct recording (just record a video, or audio)
- Video camera-more formal approach for video, (however depending on your cell phone video and sound can be outstanding)
- Digital audio recorder-just audio, high quality-simple to complex

Checking out the environment-multiple settings multiple considerations

- Sound considerations-look around your area, hard and soft surfaces, outside noises, noises within the room, things “humming”
- Lighting considerations-look around your area, changing light, windows, types of lights in the room
- Unforeseen variables-what could possible go wrong?

The equipment, what do we have to work with?

- The equipment audio, video, microphones, lighting, headphones, tripod, amplifier, batteries, power strips, cords, data storage devices, backdrops
 - Cell phone
 - Zoom H5
 - Sony Handycam HD
 - Audiotecnica Omni microphone
 - LED panel, or other
 - Headphones-various stereo
 - Tripods-table top, standard
 - Mixer-not powered Azden, Amplifier/mixer powered Saramonic SmartRig+
- hands on work

Test run , demo of, hands on...

- Cell phone
 - Audio
 - Video
 - Storycorp app
- Zoom H5
 - Stereo mode
- Video Sony Handycam
 - With mixer and microphone(s)
 - Without microphones-use built in microphone of the camera

A few examples to get us started

- Berkshireheros.org
- Grade 5 students testing the equipment

What questions would you like to use today?

- Storycorp
 - Use pre made question , build your own bank of questions
- From collection
 - Veterans, general questions
- Modified from selection

Checklist

- The actual recording-checking the equipment in the chosen environment
- Do a test , watch/listen “testing 1,2,3, etc”
 - Playback
 - What did you like/not like

Your turn- a five to ten minute test

- The interview-video and audio-now you get the opportunity to do a test run
 - This is the real one!
- Brief review of your interview
 - How did it go?

The conversion-different approaches

- Editing software – [Handbrake](#)
 - Handbrake is an easy to use program that is available for Mac, Linux and Windows. Originally designed for ripping DVDs, it is the most popular tool for creating H264 video from any video file or DVD disc. It is free!
- Converting mp4 etc to [youtube](#)

Storage of recordings

- SD cards, USB “sticks”
- Portable drives-Synology
- “Cloud” storage-Google drive etc.

Story Corps approach

- Using the app to record

Final wrap up

- Questions ?
- Want to get involved ?
 - Veteran's interviews
 - Local interviews in your area?