**September 11th Oral History Project**

Conduct an interview of an adult at least the age of 25, who remembers the events of September 11th, and is willing to share their experience with you.

**Step 1: Preparation** If you are not prepared, your interview may go poorly, this is extremely important.
- Arrange a quiet place and an interview time when you will not be interrupted.
- If you plan on taping the interview, ask the person for permission first.
- Prepare a list of questions to ask during the interview.
- Be sure to listen to the interviewees carefully because you might think of another good question based on what the person is talking about.
- Try to use open ended questions instead of yes or no questions.
- Be polite and confident and speak loudly and clearly.

**Step 2: Interview**
- Ask the interviewee if they are comfortable with others hearing their interview.
- Ask only one question at a time, and don’t ask too many specific questions in the beginning.
- Generally it is good to start with “Can you tell me your name, where and when you were born, and a little about your family?”

**Step 3: Post Interview**
- Fill out the following Oral History Planning Sheet and Write-Up Sheet.
- The Oral History Write-Up Sheet will be published as part of the class’s September 11th Oral History Exhibit and both will be graded including your notes, according to the Oral History Rubric.
- If you recorded the interview, review the recording before you answer your responses to help you reflect on your writing.
- Be sure to check both sheets alongside the rubric to ensure that the requirements of the assignment are met.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oral History Rubric</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation</strong></td>
<td>Completed on time and according to directions.</td>
<td>Completed slightly late and mostly according to directions.</td>
<td>Completed late, partly according to direction.</td>
<td>Completed late, not according to directions, or not respectfully</td>
<td>X 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Question Design</strong></td>
<td>Questions are thoughtful, appropriate, well-phrased, and well-ordered. Student put considerable time into organizing their interview questions.</td>
<td>Questions are mostly thoughtful, appropriate, well-phrased, and well-ordered.</td>
<td>Questions are somewhat thoughtful, appropriate, well-phrased, and well-ordered.</td>
<td>Questions are poorly constructed and ordered, and/or somewhat inappropriate. Student did not put considerable time into organizing their interview questions.</td>
<td>X 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oral History Planning Sheet</strong></td>
<td>Planning Sheet is completed and prepared prior to interview.</td>
<td>Planning Sheet is mostly completed and prepared prior to the interview</td>
<td>Planning Sheet is somewhat completed and prepared prior to the interview</td>
<td>Planning Sheet is not completed prior to the interview</td>
<td>X 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oral History Write-Up Sheet</strong></td>
<td>Completed in detail and clearly expresses the story told by the interviewee.</td>
<td>Mostly completed and clearly expresses the story told by the interviewee.</td>
<td>Somewhat completed or somewhat expresses the story told by the interviewee.</td>
<td>Mostly unclear or does not express the story told by the interviewee.</td>
<td>X 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanics, Spelling, Grammar, Presentation</strong></td>
<td>The Oral History Project has no grammatical errors and a clear, concise presentation.</td>
<td>The Oral History Project has few grammatical errors with a mostly clear, concise presentation.</td>
<td>The Oral History Project has several grammatical errors with a somewhat clear, concise presentation.</td>
<td>The Oral History Project has too many grammatical errors and an unclear presentation.</td>
<td>X 5</td>
</tr>
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Interview Planning Sheet

Name of the interviewee: _______________________________

Relation to the interviewer (student), (Ex: parent, neighbor, teacher, relative): ___________________________

Planned date and time of the interview: _____________________________

Planned location of the interview: _________________________________

Question Planning

Section 1: Introduction – Prepare these questions to get to know your interviewee.

Question 1:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 2:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 3:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 4:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Section 2: Topic – September 11th: Prepare these questions to understand their story and memories of the actual event. Be sure to listen carefully and ask follow up questions as needed.

Question 1:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 2:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 3:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 4:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 5:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 6:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 7:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 8:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 9:_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 10:____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 11:____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 12:____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 13:____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 14:____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 15:____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 16:____________________________________________________________________________________
Section 3: Topic – After September 11th: Prepare these questions to find out how their life or has been affected or changed because of the events. Be sure to listen carefully and ask follow up questions as needed.

Question 1: 
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 2: 
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 3: 
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 4: 
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Question 5: 
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Name: ___________________________  September 11th Oral History Project

Oral History Write Up Sheet

After conducting your interview, reflect not only on the responses you received to your questions but also the story told by the interviewee. Write a two paragraphs response to the following question. You may include or attach a picture if you would like.

Reflection Question 1: How did hearing the person’s story change your perspective about the events of September 11th?

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________