



Oral History Interview Activity

Assignment: Interview

Choose a grandparent or relative and make arrangements to conduct an interview. Plan to spend some time. Do not interview over the phone. If you have no one to interview, try making arrangements with a retirement home or a neighbor. If you interview a family member, this might be a nice Christmas gift for one of your parents.

1. Begin your interview with background information on your subject. Include the name, age, profession, children in their family, number of children they themselves had, where they grew up, relationship to you and any other important information.
2. Try to cover all the categories in the outline. Some topics may lead you in other directions. Enjoy the trip!
3. The interview may be put on video, audio or written as best as you can. Use your computer skills if possible.

I. CHILDHOOD:

Describe your family.

Tell me about your toys, family rules, and chores.

What important events do you remember and why?

Who were your most important family members and why?

II. SCHOOL:

Describe your school.

What subjects were taught?

Which subjects did you like and why?

Describe punishment, rules and dress.

What are some funny happenings?

III. **ENTERTAINMENT:**

What did you do for entertainment in:
the evenings? How about during the weekends?
What kind of music was popular?
Tell me about your school and community events.

IV. **HOLIDAYS:**

Describe family customs/traditions.
What were some special Christmas and birthday customs?
What holidays or events were important to you?

V. **COURTSHIP:**

How did young people meet?
At what age did most people marry?
How old were you when you got married? Your husband?
Other comments?

VI. **WEDDINGS:**

Describe your wedding.
Describe a wedding that was different from yours.
What types of gifts were given?
Where did young couples usually live?

VII. **REMEDIES:**

Tell me what different home remedies were used for:
colds, cough, congestion and fevers
colic and stomach aches
teething pain and headaches
earaches
warts

VIII. SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT:

Weddings

Illnesses

Ghost stories or folk-tales

IX. What famous person in history would you like to be like and why?

Who influenced your life the most?