

ORAL HISTORY in the History of Education survey course at the Univ of Delaware

As the “take home” part of their final exam, my 40 undergraduates interview someone who graduated from high school at least twenty years ago. I provide the interview questions (they are free to add others) as well as guidelines for how to report what they heard. I devote part of a class period to tips on good interviewing methods.

I give everyone full credit for the interview if they’ve followed the guidelines in Documents A and B (with one chance to correct mistakes).

I do that because the heart of the project is their analysis of EACH OTHERS’ interviews (see Document C). That is, I xerox the interviews and create two packets based on date of graduation (eg, 1956—1973, 1974-1986), and each student gets the packet that contains the interview s/he did. Usually means charging \$5 from each student (although it could be done electronically)

You need to plan carefully when the interviews are due, when you hand out the packets, and when the final paper is due. My due date was November 20, with the packets distributed on December 2d, and the final paper due December 18, the last day of finals.

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