

FAQs for Oral History Interviews

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How can I prepare for my interview?

- **Select a private and quiet space in the home.** When making this selection consider other people in your household, pets, outdoor noise, home appliances, etc. For video interviews, consider what time of day is best and if there is a background suitable for video. Think about lighting, clutter, privacy, and other factors.
- **Take time to reflect on the topics.** Feel free to write down any thoughts or specific memories you'd like to share and have these on hand for the interview. Don't hesitate to speak with the oral historian beforehand about any specific questions you'd rather not address during the recording.
- **If participating in a virtual interview, familiarize yourself with the video conferencing platform.** Read the help pages on the Zoom or Microsoft Teams websites so that you know how to use the software. YouTube tutorials are also helpful.

What should I expect during my interview?

Our goal is to have a conversation about serious topics in a comfortable setting. Before recording your interview, the oral historian will check the sound and camera, and they will ask you if you are ready to begin. The oral historian will give a brief introductory statement so the title of the project is recorded and then begin the interview session. You may ask to pause or end the interview at any time.

Can I bring a guest to join in my interview?

You are welcome to have someone in the room with you off-camera for technical assistance or emotional support. However, if you would like to conduct a joint interview, both parties must sign and submit the consent form.

Use the space below to write down any questions or notes you have for the oral historian.
