

Immigration & Memory Oral History Project

Project Purpose

Student documentation of the immigrant experience in the Greater Danbury area over the past century is the primary focus of The Immigration & Memory Oral History Project supported by the President's Initiatives Fund.

This Study Seeks To:

1. Collect oral histories and interviews of immigrants in the Greater Danbury area.
2. Serve as the foundation for the Western Connecticut Regional Oral History database.
3. Enable students to analyze the history of immigration, the nature of community formation and consider the implications of immigration in the Danbury area.

Oral History Process

Oral Histories are audio or video recordings of individual historical testimony. The interviewee recalls the historical event, in this case, an immigration experience, which is then recorded by the interviewer, thus providing a historical record. Oral historians are involved in a process of data collection, analysis, verification and contextualization.

Conducting an Interview

1. Find a subject with immigrant experience.
2. Create a list of questions about their immigrant experience and its impact on their lives.
3. Go over the questions with your subject.
4. Test your recording equipment to ensure it works properly
5. Have your subject sign the release form.
6. Review the list of questions and have a practice Run Through with your subject.
7. Start the 30 minute interview by clearly stating your name, the subject's name, the time, date and begin by asking where the subject was born.

8. Ask questions and improvise when necessary. Do not interrupt and be polite.
9. Say thank you and end the interview.
10. Review and analyze your findings.

Research Analysis

- Did your oral history interview help answer your questions?
- What was interesting or unique about your oral history?
- Check the accuracy of the information gathered.
- Decide how you will present your findings.
- Present your findings!



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IMMIGRATION & MEMORY

Oral History Project

Additional Resources:

For more information on Oral History Projects, contact the WCSU History Department.

And be sure to see our work on the web:
<http://library.wcsu.edu/dspace/handle/0/13>



If you or someone you know would like to be an Oral History participant please contact History Department Chair Dr. Peretti:

peretti@wcsu.edu



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