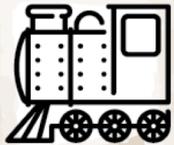


# PAST-TIMES



*Questions for Evaluating an Oral History Interview*

# Module 3, Unit 5: Evaluating and safe-guarding the quality of the oral history project

*Questions for Evaluating the Quality of an Oral History Interview*

## Question for Evaluating the Quality in your Oral History Interview

- Once you have completed your oral history interview, processed your data and edited your project, you can complete a review of the quality of your oral history interview by reflecting on some key questions.
  
- When completing this review to evaluate the quality of your oral history project you should conduct a review of:
  - The Narrator
  - The Interviewer
  - The Oral History Project
  
- To guide you in this evaluation, we have compiled a list of questions that can prompt your evaluation.

## Question for Evaluating the Quality in your Oral History Interview

- Evaluating the quality of the narrator:
  - Was the narrator nervous? Were they afraid or nervous of the recording equipment?
  - Did the narrator believe they had something of value to share?
  - Did the narrator control the interview? Had they practiced a story and were they unwilling to deviate from their prepared script?
  - Was the narrator comfortable talking about all topics during the interview?
  - Was the narrator unwilling to provide personal information? Did this effect the quality of the story?
  - Did the narrator answer all questions?
  - Did the narrator provide opinions instead of facts?

## Question for Evaluating the Quality in your Oral History Interview

- Evaluating the quality of the interviewer:
  - Were you well-prepared for your interview? Did you research your topic thoroughly beforehand?
  - Did the narrator answer all of your questions?
  - Were you able to ask all of the questions that you wanted to? Does your interviewee address all the topics you had planned/researched?
  - Were you fair, unbiased and uncritical to the narrator throughout the interview process?
  - Did you use all equipment accurately?
  - Did you accurately explain the copyright of the interview to the narrator?
  - Is the quality of the sound good? Could you clearly hear the interview through the recording?

## Question for Evaluating the Quality in your Oral History Interview

- Evaluating the quality of your project:
  - How did I choose the person to be interviewed?
  - Were the people I interviewed the right ones for my research?
  - How did I prepare for the interview? Did I prepare enough?
  - What did I use for equipment? Did it work satisfactorily? What changes should I make?
  - What kinds of questions did I ask? What kinds of questions worked well? Not so well?
  - Where did I conduct the interview?
  - What in the environment affected my interview? How?

*Source: Judith Moyer 1993, Revised 1999*

## Question for Evaluating the Quality in your Oral History Interview

- Evaluating the quality of your project (cont'd):
  - Did the narrator want to talk? How did I encourage the narrator to talk?
  - When did I tell the narrator the purpose of the interview and how it would be used? Did my plans to use the interview seem to matter to the narrator?
  - How accurate were the narrator's memories?
  - How accurate was the narrator's reporting of his/her memories? How do I know?
  - Who controlled the interview? How?
  - How did I feel while interviewing?
  - How did the narrator feel while being interviewed?

*Source: Judith Moyer 1993, Revised 1999*

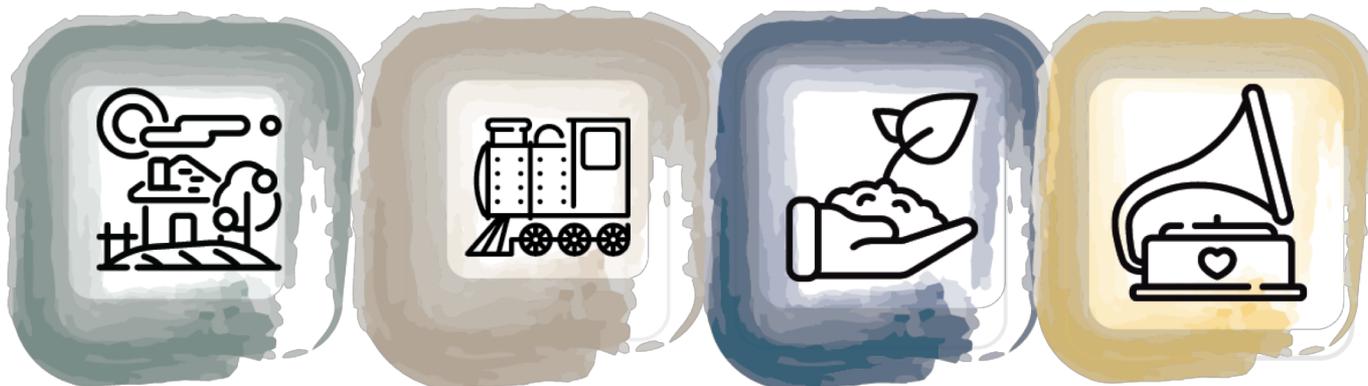


## Question for Evaluating the Quality in your Oral History Interview

- Evaluating the quality of your project (cont'd):
  - When I edit the interview, will I leave it exactly as it was said or will I begin light editing right from the start?
  - How can I ensure that the final interview is accurate? How can I ensure that the final interview reports what the narrator wanted to say?
  - Who owns the interview and has the right to decide how the completed interview will be used?
  - Next time, what would I do the same? What would I do differently?

*Source: Judith Moyer 1993, Revised 1999*

# PAST-TIMES



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F S E A ■



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