

Oral History Write-Up

So, you've completed your Oral History Interview. You have superb notes, hopefully. You have a well-recorded interview, maybe. And now comes the time to write up what you've learned. The write-up has three basic parts:

Part 1: Impressions

This is where you should discuss your basic impressions of the Oral History subject and how you felt going into the oral history interview. This is the shortest of the sections. In this section you should describe:

- Where and when you met
- What the person looked like
- How the Oral History Subject came across as a person
- What your interactions were like
- How you felt going into the process
- How you felt as the process progressed
- How you feel about the process now.

Part 2: Their Story

This is where you reveal parts of what your Oral History subject told you in their Interview. There are two main ways you can do this:

1. **Transcription:** This is the harder option. If you have a strong copy of the Oral History Interview you can use it to transcribe the exact words of your Oral History subject. You should choose what you felt were the best, most powerful parts of your Oral History Subject's story and transcribe them word for word. Use "... " when you skip parts. Be sure to include your questions.
2. **Retelling:** In this option you re-tell what you felt were the best, most powerful parts of your Oral History Subject's story. You will reveal them in language like this: "When I asked **** about the recruitment of child soldiers in Uganda he explained to me how it worked. He described a hypothetical situation which he said was very much like what really occurred, in which ...etc."

Part 3: Reflections

This is where you reflect upon your experiences—what you've learned, what the impact of the Oral History has been on you, etc. This section should include the following:

- What are the **three moments** that were most powerful or interesting in your Oral History? For each of these moments, explain what was powerful or interesting about it. Be as detailed as possible.
- What did you learn from this interview?

A strong piece will list at least **three distinct things** that they have learned from the interview. You should, in particular, think about the causes of and potential solutions to the injustice in question...what have you learned in these areas? Also, have you learned anything that affects your outlook or understanding of life? If so, what is it? Did the interview strengthen your commitment to fight for justice in your life?