

Directions for Honors American History II Summer Assignment

You will be responsible for interviewing a family member/friend who was born in or before 1943, making them at least seventy years old today. The interview should focus on their personal knowledge and memories of key social, political, economic, and military changes in the United States during their lifetime.

You will need to record this interview using an audio or video device (cellphone would be fine), as you will be responsible for transcribing a section of the interview and turning it in as part of your project. You will also complete a one page reflection on the experience of the interview process.

This assignment corresponds to the following elements of the American History II Essential Standards:

- AH2.H.2 (Analyze key political, economic, and social turning points in American History)
- AH2.H.4 (Analyze how conflict and compromise have shaped politics, economics and culture in the US)
- AH2.H.5 (How tensions between freedom, equality, and power have shaped the political, economic, and social development of the US)
- AH2.H.6 (Understand how and why the role of the United States has changed over time)
- AH2.H.7 (Understand the impact of war on American politics, economics, society, and culture)
- AH2.H.8 (Analyze the relationship between progress, crisis, and the “American Dream” within the United States).

This assignment must be turned in on Day 1 of the 2014/2015 school year to your instructor (Riggs or Basilone) regardless of the semester (Fall/Spring) in which you are registered.

Failure to complete this assignment will result in your removal from the course.

This project is worth a 100 point test grade, and will be counted as the first assignment of Quarter 1.

Your completed Summer Assignment MUST include the following elements:

1. Interview cover sheet and rubric (attached)
2. Two page transcription of a section of your interview.
3. One page personal reflection about the experience of completing the interview.

For a better understanding of what is meant by social, political, economic, and military changes:

- **Social changes:** changes in American society. This could focus on attitude changes of American society and relationships between groups of people. Key term examples: Civil Rights Movement, counterculture movement of the 1960s/hippies, immigrants, school integration.
- **Political changes:** changes in American politics. This could focus on presidents, political parties gaining/losing power, actions by Congress or the Supreme Court. Key term examples: Harry Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, political scandals.
- **Economic changes:** changes in the American economy. This could focus on times when the American economy as a whole/individual households were struggling or doing especially well. Key term examples: stagflation and gas lines in the 1970s, Reaganomics, changes in technology, changes in jobs.
- **Military events/conflicts:** where/how the United States has been involved in military conflicts with other countries/organizations. Key term examples: Cold War, Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis, Bay of Pigs, Vietnam War, Iranian Hostage Crisis, Persian Gulf War (1991), 9/11, War on Terror.

Your two page, single-spaced transcription should begin with the information below and in EXACTLY the format provided:

Interviewee: [TYPE NAME OF INTERVIEWEE]

Interviewer: [TYPE NAME OF INTERVIEWER]

[TYPE DATE OF INTERVIEW – MONTH, DAY, YEAR]

Introduction: This is an oral history interview with [INTERVIEWEE NAME]. It is being conducted on [MONTH/DAY/YEAR] at [LOCATION OF INTERVIEW] and concerns [FOCUS OF INTERVIEW]. The interviewer is [INTERVIEWER NAME].

Sample Transcription:

Interviewee: Beth Giordano

Interviewer: Sarah Langsdon

Date: February 16, 2006

This is an oral history interview with Beth Giordano. It is being conducted on February 16, 2006 at her home in Ogden, Utah, and concerns her recollections and experiences of meeting a prisoner of war in Ogden during World War II and her subsequent marriage to him. The interviewers are Sarah Langsdon.

SL: Okay Beth why don't you just tell us a little about yourself, where you were born, grew up.

BG: Well I was born in a little farming town of Black Pine, Idaho. It's a Cassia county it's close to, well right now there's nothing left of the little town, but we had a lot of people from Ogden homestead out there and that's what my folk did; they homesteaded in Idaho. I went to school, and in Stone, Idaho, and then again at Bear River High School, that was my high school.

Interview Tips:

1. Ask one question at a time.
2. State your questions as directly as possible.
3. Ask open-ended questions-questions that begin with "why, how, where, what kind of," etc. Avoid "yes or no" questions.
4. Don't let periods of silence fluster you.
5. Avoid interrupting the interviewee.
6. If the interviewee strays away from the topic in which you are interested, don't panic. Sometimes the best parts of the interview come about this way. If you feel the digression has drifted too far afield, gently steer the interviewee back to the topic with your next question.
7. Be respectful of the interviewee. Use body language to show you are interested in what he or she has to say. Remember, the interviewee is giving you the gift of his or her memories and experiences.
8. After the interview, thank the interviewee for sharing his or her experiences.

Directions for Reflection:

- The reflection should be ONE PAGE in length with standard margins.
- 12 point font, double-spaced, with your full name and "Summer Project Interview Reflection" at top
- Focus on what you learned about the United States and your family, what surprised you, and the experience of the interview process.

Interview Cover Sheet – American History II Summer Assignment

1. Name of Interviewee: _____

Date of birth _____ Birthplace _____ Age at time of interview _____

List of places lived during lifetime _____

2. In the chart below, please list ALL MAJOR EVENTS (social, political, economic, and military) that you discussed with your family member/family friend during your interview.

Social changes in America discussed in interview 1943 - present	Political changes in America discussed in interview 1943 – present	Economic changes in America discussed in interview 1943 - present	Major military events/conflicts discussed in interview 1943 - present

3. Date of interview _____ Location of interview _____

Time length of interview _____ Recording device used _____

Rubric for Summer Interview Project:

	Cover Sheet section 1 is complete (5)	Cover sheet section 2 is complete (20)	Cover sheet section 3 is complete (5)	Total – 30 points possible
Cover sheet				
	Transcription follows correct format (10)	Transcription is appropriate length (20)	Transcription includes appropriate information (10)	Total – 40 points possible
Interview Transcription				
	Reflection follows correct format (5)	Reflection is appropriate length (5)	Reflection includes thoughtful, appropriate, well- written info (20)	Total – 30 points possible
Reflection				

TOTAL POINTS FOR SUMMER PROJECT: _____/100