## Use of Oral Histories

**Objective:** Students will be able investigate the way historians, archivists and the media use oral history in order to evaluate the effects they have on the perspective and narrative of an event.

**Drill:** respond to the following questions to the best of your ability. Use your notes from previous lessons.

1. What are the three (3) steps to the oral history process?

i. \_\_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you need to make the sure your can legally use the interview you conducted?



What are some ways we could use an interview? Think of three (3)

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## How do Historians Use Oral Histories?

**Directions:** as you read the passage answer the following questions. Make sure you highlight and annotate the reading as you go through it.

- 1. Who does an oral history give use new insight and interpretive perspectives one and why can't we get this information from traditional sources?
- 2. a.) What sort of things did Dublin & Licht learn about the coal region of northeast Pennsylvania?
  - b.) Why was this valuable to the historians?

| 3. | How do oral histories open historians to views to the past?   |
|----|---|
| 4. | How can oral histories lend perspectives into politics?   |
| 5. | Why are oral histories sometimes frustrating to historians and archivist?   |
| 6. | How do Thelen and Rosenzweig demonstrate the value of oral history?   |
| 7. | What is the argument that some have made about oral history?  |
| 8. | Think about the interviews you will be conducting about the 2015 Baltimore Uprising, what value will those oral histories provide the narrative of the event? |
|    |   |

## Media and The Uprising

**Directions:** answer the questions as you view the following video clips.

| The New York Times: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPM_DPth6Lo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPM_DPth6Lo</a>                                |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| How did the New Times portray the Uprising?  |  |  |
| What goal do you think the NYT had with creating this short montage of clips?  |  |  |
| Why show the clip of the city gangs unifying?  |  |  |
| What was the purpose of showing Freddie Gray's mother?   |  |  |
| If someone was interviewed about the uprising & all they had to go off of was this video from<br>the NYT what effect would that have on their interview? |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Fox News: https://video.foxnews.com/v/4207805343001/#sp=show-clips   |  |  |
| Right from the beginning, how is Fox News depicting the event? What sort of words are they using?  |  |  |
| Why show the interview of Dr. Marc Siegel? What purpose does this fill?  |  |  |

| Is Bill O'Reilly inflicting his own views into the broadcast? Is this troublesome?  |
|---|
| Do the data points from other cities help or hurt the narrative and are they necessary?   |
| <ul> <li>How does Fox utilize oral history?</li> </ul>  |
|   |
| HBO (Baltimore Rising): https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/12/hbo-revisits-the-baltimore-uprising/548450/  |
| What is the issue that HBO is trying to address in this documentary?  |
| How did the creators of this trailer utilize oral histories?  |
|   |
| <ul> <li>Based on the short amount you saw; do you feel that this video adds something different to<br/>the discussion than the other two clips?</li> </ul> |
| What is the purpose of this documentary?  |
|   |

| JNN:                | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShKAo-vLe1E  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| •                   | What perspective of the uprising is CNN showing?   |  |
| •                   | Why describe the condition of the neighborhood and the people living there?  |  |
|                     | Would you describe this video as depicting "Riots" or "Protests"?  |  |
|                     | Why do they keep mentioning the anger, fear, and emotion of the marchers and protestors?   |  |
|                     |  |  |
| ollow up Questions: |  |  |
| 1.                  | Why do some of the videos and people describe the event as an uprising or protest and others describe it as a riot or unrest? What does this tell you? |  |
|                     |  |  |
| 2.                  | Do any of the video clips have a full perspective or narrative?  |  |
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|                     |  |  |