## Oral History Writing Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing Trait</th>
<th>Approaching</th>
<th>Meets</th>
<th>Exceeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Development Of Ideas / Thesis** | • Needs a clearer essence  
• Involved description of the interview process takes away from the story. Needs trimming. | • Reveals a theme or essence of the story  
• Expresses why the story matters  
• Limits discussion of the interviewer’s perspective | • The essence of the story is genuine and insightful and guides the piece  
• Captures the meaning of the story with sensitivity and sophistication  
• Captures the character of the interviewee. |
| **Organization**              | • Information is there, but the story jumps around.  
• The sequence is hard to follow and doesn’t build.  
• Transitions are choppy. | • The story is organized in a logical and meaningful way.  
• Piece follows the arc of the narrative (unless altered with purpose).  
• Transitions are smooth and fluid | • The story unfolds in an engaging, compelling way.  
• The piece is fluid and seamless |
| **Descriptive Details**       | • Some descriptive details  
• Still hard to visualize or know the person and place. | • Gives complete description of the character and setting.  
• Includes appearance, mannerisms, voice, sites, smells, sounds...  
• Weaves in description of the interview process. | • Rich, meaningful description enhances the development of the story  
• Descriptive details of subject, setting, and process are woven through to enrich the piece. |
| **Voice / Style**             | Uses some variety in words and phrases/awareness of audience | • Captures the voice of the interviewee  
• Uses quotations whenever possible  
• Uses some literary devices to engage the reader | • The interviewee’s voice and essence are richly developed  
• Consistent voice and emerging style surprises, delights or moves the reader |
| **Conventions**               | Sentences are short, rambling, or contain a repetitive pattern | Sentences sound natural/not choppy or forced/ simple and compound sentences | Accomplished control of a variety of sentence structures: simple, compound, and complex |

Overall Score: __________

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