

Oral History Writing Rubric

Name: _____

Writing Trait	Approaching	Meets	Exceeds
Development Of Ideas / Thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs a clearer essence Involved description of the interview process takes away from the story. Needs trimming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reveals a theme or essence of the story Expresses why the story matters Limits discussion of the interviewer's perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is there, but the story jumps around. The sequence is hard to follow and doesn't build. Transitions are choppy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story unfolds in an engaging, compelling way. The piece is fluid and seamless
Descriptive Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some descriptive details Still hard to visualize or know the person and place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gives complete description of the character and setting. Includes appearance, mannerisms, voice, sites, smells, sounds... Weaves in description of the interview process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Captures the voice of the interviewee Uses quotations whenever possible Uses some literary devices to engage the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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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