

Set of oral history assignments, Fall 2014 Texas A&M University at Qatar

This semester, 65% of your final grade will be based on three major assignments: oral histories, a poster project, and a poster presentation at the Oral History Exhibition on December 4, 2014.

Oral Histories

This semester, you will curate oral histories from interviews you will conduct with three different people. First, you will interview a family member, then a member of your religious or cultural group, and finally, a member of a community you want to join. Once you have conducted and recorded the interview, you will submit these items to get full credit:

1. The audio file of your interview in .mp3, .mp4, .m4a, .wav, and .ogg. Please make sure your file is under 10 MB.
2. A short transcription (at least 250 words) of your interview that you found most interesting.
3. A short written or spoken reflection to be completed in class on the day that the oral history interview is due.
4. If applicable, a translation of #2 in English. If your interview was conducted in a language other than English, you will receive an extra point for translating your interview. To receive this point, you must turn in the transcription in both English and the other language.

Oral Histories Rubric				Total possible points: 10
Audio File of Interview	1 point: Submitted audio file on time	1 point: Submitted audio file in one of the accepted formats		2
Transcription	2 points: Submitted partial transcription (under 250 words) on time	2 points: Submitted transcription of at least 250 words on time	2 points: Submitted transcription of interview that contains thoughtful, interesting, challenging, critical, beautiful, or moving material	6
In-class Reflection	1 point: Student communicates (through writing or speaking) something that he or she learned from completing the oral history assignment	1 point: Student communicates (through writing or speaking) a critical thinking perspective on what he or she learned from completing the oral history assignment		2
Translation	1 point: Submitted English translation of an interview conducted in another language			BONUS! 😊

Poster Project

At the end of the semester, you will create a poster that expresses what you have learned as a result of conducting these interviews and critically thinking about the worlds we live in. This poster should reflect the interviews that you conducted, but it may also reflect what you have learned from listening to your classmates' oral histories. You should incorporate visuals as well as small amounts of text on your poster.

Your poster may answer the research question you posed at the beginning of the semester, or it may answer one of the following questions. These questions are not a requirement for your poster; they are meant to help you start thinking about what to create.

- What changes in Qatar do you or your interviewees feel are the most important ones? How are these changes positive or negative?
- Are there significant differences in how older people and younger people view Qatar? Why do you think these differences exist?
- How have your feelings or thoughts about Qatar changed since you began this project?
- What similarities and differences do you see between the oral histories you collected and the sources you read about Qatar? Why do you think those similarities and differences exist?

Poster Project Rubric			Total possible points: 10
Critical Thinking	2 points: Represents the complexity of the issues in the oral histories and in their significance	2 points: Evaluates, responds to, questions, analyzes, synthesizes, or interprets information from oral histories	4
Communication	1 point: Identifies a research question and provides important information from oral histories	2 points: Explores key themes of your own oral histories and provides one or more answers to the research question	3
Creativity	1 point: Extends issue, discussion, or design beyond the parameters of the assignment or instructor's expectations	2 points: Takes risks in content or design, transforms course material into new forms, proposes new directions or approaches to thinking about the issue	3

Poster Presentation

At the Oral History Exhibition on December 4, 2014, you will present your poster to a small audience. When you present a poster, you give a short (2-3) minute talk to your audience that explains the main ideas of your oral history project.

To draft your presentation, remember who your audience is: other Aggies, faculty members, family members, and interested members of the public. The organization and content of your presentation is up to you, but you should try to do the following three things:

- Briefly describe how you curated these oral histories.
- Identify key themes in your oral histories or others' oral histories.
- Explain how oral history relates to particular problems or issues in Qatar.

Be ready to answer questions from audience members about your specific project.

Poster Presentation Rubric			Total possible points: 10
Communication	2 points: Explains the basic points of his/her oral history project	2 points: Provides his/her critical thinking perspective on the issues raised in the oral histories	4
Organization	1 point: Arranges presentation in a recognizable step-by-step order	2 points: Incorporates all three objectives (above) into a recognizable step-by-step order	3
Professionalism	1 point: Embodies Aggie core values of respect, integrity, leadership, excellence, loyalty and selfless service	2 points: Engages audience members in thoughtful conversation about larger issues raised by oral histories	3