

## **TCOM 254: COMMUNICATION HISTORY**

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### **ORAL HISTORY TIMELINE**

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For this assignment, you are to find someone who is one of your community leaders who is at least 15 years different in age from you and interview them in a similar manner to the Oral History I. Remember, your job as an oral historian is both to find a story and to tell it in an interesting manner that also helps us understand both the subject and the time periods involved. Part of the goal here is to understand the role media has played in the longer term history of your community and how the experience of media has changed historically.

You should begin by asking some establishing questions including what their name is, what they prefer to be called, where they are from, where they currently live, and other questions in order to help us understand their context.

Once you have some context, you should focus on the following questions:

- What is their earliest memory of interacting with media?
- What specific piece of media has mattered the most to them and why?
- What specific piece of media has been the most to their community and why?
- What does their typical day look like in terms of media interaction? How and why did this pattern develop?
- What specific piece of media (a tv program podcast, album or song, movie, etc.) has impacted their life? Why? How? How did they first experience it? How do they encounter it today?
- What specific major historical event(s) did they experience entirely through media, and what was that experience like? How did the media (or specific medium) shape the experience?

You'll submit copies of your written notes and, if possible, of the recording as part of the assignment. Don't forget to make sure that they are okay being recorded and with the result of your project being on Timeline JS. You should also consider inviting them to the exhibit on December 8.

As part of this research, you should also be looking for media artifacts you can connect to help explain these experiences. These may include photographs, examples of the specific media texts or technologies they speak about, or other artifacts from their life, and these should represent a mix of primary and secondary sources. You can also ask your interviewee if they have photographs or other artifacts they are willing to share with you. You should also work to find and connect the stories to specific dates whenever possible. Your job is to create a timeline using Timeline JS that brings these together through your written explanation and through the examples and artifacts you choose to highlight that history.

All grammar/writing challenges from the previous papers will be factored into grading for this paper.

You should be working to produce at a minimum 2,000 words of written content as part of your exhibition in addition to whatever examples of artifact content you'll be providing. Citations for those examples should be provided as part of the Timeline JS exhibit in APA format. Failure to adequately cite information will result in questions of plagiarism and, as such, will be dealt with as discussed in the syllabus on the first day of class.

A strong draft is due at the end of class December 6 so that I can give feedback before we hold our exhibition during our assigned final exam period on December 8.