

AEJMC 2020 G.I.F.T.

Active Oral History Interview News Project

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1. Low-stakes assignment: Students brainstorm three people they could interview.

2. After receiving instructor feedback, students select an interviewee, conduct preliminary research, and propose 15–20 questions to ask during an interview of approximately 25–30 minutes.

3. The instructor recommends ways to strengthen the questions. Students then schedule their interviews.

4. Students conduct the interview. At the start of the interview, the student records the interview's details, such as the names of the interviewer and interviewee, date of the interview, and location of the interview — a formality observed by historians using oral history. Students also photograph the subject.

5. Students transcribe their interviews. They can upload their audio files to apps to produce a transcript or transcribe their own.

6. Students use the interview to decide an angle to write an in-depth news story.