

Oral History “Close-Listening” Worksheet¹

In our English class we regularly practice close-reading. For this assignment, you’ll practice “close-listening” in order to deeply engage with your selected oral history interview. You are responsible for listening to **at least one hour** of your selected interview (of course, I encourage you to listen to the complete interview if your schedule allows.) Please complete the worksheet below as you listen, and use the results of the worksheet to compose a blog post for your designated deadline (see Moodle for blog deadlines).

Digital Oral History Collection (circle one):

- Texas After Violence Project
- Rule of Law Oral History Project
- StoryCorps Slavery By Another Name Oral History Project
- Other

1) Who is the narrator of the interview? Where and when did the interview take place?

2) As you listen, mark the times of moments in the interview that strike you as particularly significant (for example, if the narrator says something striking 1 hour, 10 minutes, and 37 seconds into the interview, hit pause and write “1:10:37”).

3) What are your observations about the narrator’s tone, style, and narrative? Are there ideas, terms, or concepts to which the narrator returns?

4) How would you summarize the narrator’s perspective? Does the narrator express a position on an issue? If so, what?

5) Connect this oral history interview with at least one other text you’ve encountered in class this semester. How does the interview speak to, contextualize, or otherwise connect with the Ellison, Davis, Perkinson, etc.? How does the text deepen your understanding of the oral history interview?

¹ Prepared by Charlotte Nunes.

6) Identify one clip that is 2-10 minutes long that you think represents the essence or a particularly significant aspect of the interview. Write down the start and stop times here:

__:__:__ to __:__:__

In 2-3 sentences, explain your selection: why is this clip important? How is it representative of a significant message or theme of the interview?
