

Oral History:

**Preparing an Oral
History Interview**

Have your say

What did students say last year?

- Last year 90% of students at Sheridan reported they felt a sense of belonging to our community.
- 60% of Sheridan students felt they had adequate interaction with other students outside classes.

What are we doing with your feedback?

- Sheridan is working to help students have more time to interact with each other outside classes. We have new activities and workshops planned.

Check your inbox for the SES – open 6 September to 9 October.

Help shape Sheridan for future students.

Prize draw winners will be announced— have



Outline for today:

- Participation information, consent forms and student ethics forms
- Background information
- Interview questions: what you have; what you need
- Examples of other interview questions in oral history interviews
- Equipment practice
- On the day of the interview

Background Information

Brainstorm what information you already know about your interviewee?

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The SOUL of Interview Questions

- **Simple** – one-point questions (but feel free to have a follow-up question)
- **Open** – what, when, where, why, how
- **Unknown** – Ask genuine questions, what you don't already know the answer to
- **Listen. Listen. Listen.**

Interview Questions

- Open ended and closed questions
- Neutral and leading questions
- Establishing questions
- Follow up questions
- Introducing new topics

[Photo by [Metin Ozer](#) on [Unsplash](#).]



Putting Interviewees at Ease

Discussion Question: How might you put your interviewee (and yourself) at ease?

(see p. 64 of *Oral History Handbook* if you need ideas)

Tutorial Questions

Coming Up: Week 7 and 8

Homework:

- submit journal entry by Sunday night, which includes adding to and revising your interview questions
- conduct your interview during week 7 (mid-semester study week)
- readings about transcribing (see next slide)
- bring recorded interview to class in week 8.

Coming Up:

- Readings (for week 8)
- Ritchie pp. 51–62
- Robertson, pp. 73–84