

Name _____

Date _____

Oral History Analysis (Part 1)

OBSERVE	ANALYZE	REFLECT
What is the modality (i.e., audio, video, written transcript, written document, etc.)?	What are the limitations of the modality? What's missing?	What did you learn from this oral history?
Who is telling the story? What do you know about them?	What purpose does the storyteller have in telling their story?	
Is there an interviewer? What do you know about them?	What are the storyteller's main claims? What is the storyteller revealing?	What is the emotional impact of this oral history? How did this oral history affect you?
When was the oral history recorded?	What is the storyteller's point of view?	
When did the events being described take place? What events were happening at this time? What are the relevant historical contexts?	What emotions or moods are being conveyed by the storyteller? How do you know?	What other questions would you ask this person? What more do you want to know?
What other observations can you make?	What might be missing from this oral history?	



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Oral History Analysis (Part 2)

In your own words, summarize the oral history.	
Why is this oral history important?	
Think about the historical events described in the oral history. • How does the oral history affirm or build upon what you have learned? • Are there any inconsistencies? If so, what might account for the inconsistencies?	

Whole Group Discussion Question: What are other ways historians learn about the past? What role does oral history play compared to other ways of learning?

