

ENG 1101
FIRST YEAR WRITING-OER
Research Module on Gentrification
Research Essay Handout 3: The Interview Assignment

Interview someone who remembers the area of New York you are writing about in your research essay. Ask questions that specifically relate to changes brought by gentrification and the specific area.

DUE:

Typed transcript

Research Paper Interview Requirements:

Part 1: Subject and Questions

- Identify your subject and contact him/her/them.
- Create 10 questions in advance and offer in a document separate from your transcript

Part 2: Interview

- Conduct the Interview.

Part 3: Create a Transcript

- Type the Transcript: 1 1/2 pages (or more), typed and double spaced in dialog format with header in MLA format

Part 1:

Prepare interview questions in advance. You will turn these questions in with your work. These prepared questions will also keep the conversation on track. As you are conducting the interview, however, let your subject speak freely. *Note:* You can record the interview on your phone but make sure to let your subject know you are doing this and get his/her/their permission. If you do record the interview, you still have to type and print the transcript.

Make and choose questions that relate to the change you are investigating and the area. The sample questions below are to help you start this process. You are not required to use these:

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

General questions about gentrification:

- How did this area of the city look different? This could refer to parks, subways, sidewalks, apartment buildings, corner stores, grocery stores, schools, churches, or any public space.
- What is better *now* about the area you live in?
What was better *before* about the area you live in?
- If you could change one aspect of the city back to what it used to be, what would that be?
- If you could improve one aspect of the area you live in, what would this be?
- What signs of change do you see in your neighborhood? Are these changes positive or negative?

Questions regarding issues of “displacement”

- What part of New York City did you live in before 2002? Before 1992?
- Was it harder or easier to find an apartment? Why?
- Did you know your neighbors more or less than you do now? Why?
- If you had to move from this area, where would you try to move?
- What signs of local displacement do you see? Are these changes positive or negative?

Questions regarding issues of security:

- Can you describe how safe or unsafe you feel in this area?

- How has security changed in your local area? Is it safer or less safe? Why?
- Do people still trust each other in your neighborhood? Is there a sense of communal safety?
- Do you feel safer or less safe walking around at night than you did before? What changed to cause this?

Questions regarding economics/businesses:

- Do the people who live in your neighborhood work in the neighborhood? Has this changed?
- How have the local businesses changed in your area? Which stores are gone? Which stores have come into your neighborhood?
- Do the current businesses cater to the same buying population?
- Regarding local businesses, is it easier or harder to buy what you need in your neighborhood than it was ten or more years ago?

Questions regarding schools:

- How were schools different for students? How were schools different for parents? Are these changes positive or negative?
- How have you seen elementary/middle/high schools in our area change?
- What are the school grounds like? Have the school grounds changed?
- Are the schools in the place? If not, where have they moved?
- How have private schools changed?

Part 2:

Conduct the Interview

Take a notebook or something to write on as your subject speaks.

Optional: record the interview if the subject agrees.

Thank the subject when you are finished.

Part 3:

Create the Transcript

- 1 1/2 pages (or more), typed and double spaced
- Use dialog format with header in MLA format. Keep the transcript in dialog form. Do not summarize your subject's ideas. This is what you will do when you incorporate this into your paper as a source.
- If your 10 planned questions are not obvious on the transcript, include them on a separate sheet.



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