

Handout 15: Elements of a Research Project

Session: Building Blocks of a Research Project

Subject

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The general historical event or period of time or person, etc.

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Topic

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A specific aspect of the subject you wish to learn about. What specific topics are related to our subject? What aspect have you heard about that has captured your imagination?

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Significance

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Is it under-researched? Is it unique? Does it contribute to the historical record? What difference will our project make? What contribution do we wish to make?

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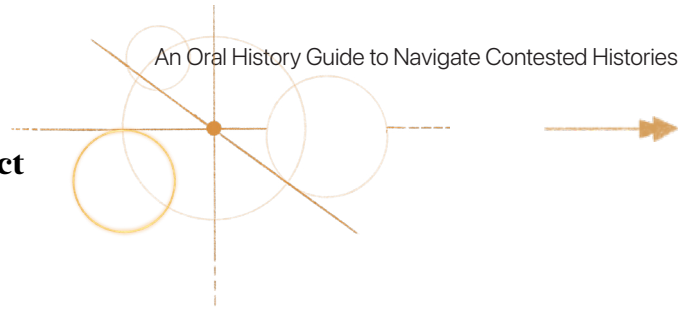
Research

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What aspects of this subject and topic have already been researched? This will tell us whether our project will fill a gap and contribute to the historical record. We have to try to access or find all types of sources available, such as written sources (books, magazines, newspapers), primary sources (photographs, documents, archives – records), documentaries, websites... What else?

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Dissemination

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How do we intend to disseminate our findings? How do we expect the final version of our project to be? Are we seeking to enrich the historical archive through documentation? Should we use this oral history to produce a podcast? A documentary? A community exhibition or facility? An art installation? A theatrical production? A map? A tour? Do we intend our research findings to engage the public?

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