

Choose an interview topic in consultation with your interviewee

Choice A: 10 minute interview with your colleague about the topic of their choice from the theme/topic sheets. (To be handed out on the day of course).

Imagine that you are preparing a museum exhibition using oral history interviews to explore the experience and memories of living in the town/village where your colleague grew up. Interview your colleague about the topic/topics of their choice relating to their town/village. Help your colleague to recreate the memories by asking carefully constructed questions designed to allow them to tell their version of memories (open-ended questions). Listen very carefully and follow up with questions if you feel it will enhance the content of the interview. Be flexible!

Try and extract a mixture of factual and reflective and descriptive memories from your colleague by constructing questions to draw this out. Use some memory hooks such as weather, smell, sound. Refer to How to Ask Questions sheet in course pack).

Note that even 'practice' interviews are real and will require you to take the usual care when setting up the recorder.

Or...

Choice B: 10 minute 'mini' life history interview:

Conduct a 'mini' life history interview up to the age of **ten years old** with your colleague.

You may also ask them about their parents and grandparents. Do not talk about the interviewee's life after the age of ten. Record the interview.

Start chronologically with their biographical details and earliest memories working your way through their life story – Use a mixture of chronological, factual and reflective questions.

Whatever the interviewee tells you about, ask a series of follow-up questions. Probe each topic in detail. Help the interviewee to create a richly detailed portrait of their childhood.

Topics may include, but are not limited to: stories about grandparents, parents, childhood house, inside rooms, special places inside the house, meaningful outside places, play, games, friends, daily life, prayer, religion, births, deaths, celebrations, school, reading, music, sports, dinnertime at home, holidays, manners, hopes for the future, summer, trips, discipline, work, household chores, farming or city life, happiest moments.

Most importantly, listen to what your colleague tells you and ask him or her about the topic he or she raises, rather than trying to ask about all of the topics listed above. Be flexible.

We will reconvene as a group at the end of your interviews and discuss and reflect on the entire activity.