

WGS 101: Interview Participation Assignment
Intergenerational Living Herstory Interviews
Due: September 29th at midnight

Choose a woman from a different generation to interview. She should be enough older than you to have had very different experiences. It's usually easiest to find family members but you can also interview family friends or neighbors (as long as you can do it online or maintain social distancing). Interviews should be 20 to 30 minutes or longer if you're having a great time!

The goal of this interview is to explore how women's lives have been different across generations: this is a living herstory project. Think about intersectionality: tailor your questions so that you get them thinking about ways that race, religion, class or sexuality may have intersected with gender in their life experiences. Be sure to watch both assigned films before finalizing your questions and doing your interviews because you'll want to refer to things you learn from the films. You may pick and choose from the following questions. Please add questions of your own as well. Remember that you want to start with simple questions and build up to more challenging questions. Write down all of the questions that you have and include those in your reflection paper.

Record the interviews. Listen back to the interviews and rite up a 2 page reflection paper. Include your interview questions as a separate page (that does not count toward your page total). Briefly summarize your interviews and then answer the following questions: What did you learn from this assignment? What surprised you about your interviewee's responses? Based on these interviewees, how/have circumstances changed for women in terms of career opportunities and independence? How did your interviewees experience with gender differ from your own? What questions would you like to ask your classmates about their interviews?

You do not need to ask all of these questions. Pick and choose and use these as ideas to create your own. You can bring in specific facts from the documentaries. For example, did you know that it wasn't until 1974 that women could get credit cards on their own, without a husband's co-sign?

Where did you grow up?

Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

Do you think women and men should be equal in all areas of life?

Do you remember as a child what you wanted to be when you grew up?

As a child, did you feel that your voice was equal in:

School?

Family?

Community?

Ask for specific examples. Were you aware of these inequities at the time?

Did you have female role models? What did they do?

What kind of expectations did you family have of you as a girl?

What careers were available to you?

Do you remember specific incidences of prejudice against you because you were a girl or woman? Can you tell me about one or two?

Do you think things have improved for girls and women significantly over your lifetime? In what ways?

Do you notice a difference in representations that you see on television or in movies?

What about politics? Do you remember any women in politics when you were my age?

What are some of the changes you've noticed in laws or attitudes that have benefitted girls and women?