



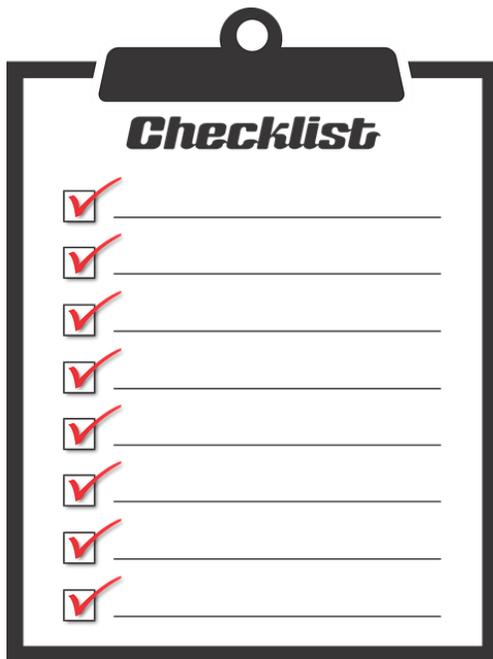
# History Happening Now: Share Your Story

## Setting Up for the Interview

Oral Historians need to have a good place to host the interview. A quiet, well-lit environment helps to get the best information from your narrator.

### Gather Your Supplies!

An Oral Historian needs many things to have an interview. Use the checklist below to make sure you have all your supplies.



\_\_\_\_\_ Recording Device (phone, computer, camera, or tablet) or Pencil and Paper

\_\_\_\_\_ Fully charged device

\_\_\_\_\_ Tripod (or stack of books to rest the camera on)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 chairs

\_\_\_\_\_ Quiet, Well-Lit Room

\_\_\_\_\_ Questions to ask the narrator

## Set up your space and test it out!

Now that you have all your supplies, set up the space for the interview. Think about how far apart you are going to place the chairs. Where are going to put the recording device? Are people going to be sitting in front of a window?



Try different set ups to see which one you like. Turn on the recording device and see how each of the set up looks on the camera. You might find that a background color is distracting on camera or the spot where the chairs are in the room is too bright. Testing out the setup will help you find just the right spot!



Once you have the chairs set up, work on the placement of the recording device. Ask a friend or family member to be your “pretend narrator.” Have them sit in the chair for the person you will be interviewing. Place the recording device on a tripod or against a stack of books. Turn it on and see how your “pretend narrator” looks. Is the camera too close? Too far away? Is it centered on the person’s face?



This is a good example of how to place a recording device. The narrator is centered. It’s not too close and is a flattering angle.



This example shows a camera placement that can be improved by centering the narrator. Otherwise the angle is flattering. The lighting is good. The camera isn’t too close either.

## Practice Your Interview!

Practice reading your interview questions while sitting in the interview space. It might help to record yourself reading a question or two to make sure you are speaking loud enough for recording device.

**Once you are ready, invite you narrator in and start the interview!**

