

## 1970s Oral History

**Points:** 50

**Due Date:** 5/13

**Content Standard(s):**

11.8--Students analyze the social transformation of post-WWII America.

11.8.7and .8—Students describe the effects on society and the economy of technological developments since 1945. Students discuss forms of popular culture.

11.9--Students analyze U.S. foreign policy since WWII.

11.11—Students analyze the major social and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.

**Background:** The 1970s was an interesting time period in U.S. history. The U.S. was experiencing an end of the Vietnam War, the tumultuous '60s brought landmark Civil Rights legislation, Nixon resigned, and many other developments. In order to gain an understanding of the decade, you will interview somebody who lived through it.

**Objective:** Students will analyze and gain an understanding of the post-WWII American society, including culture and domestic and foreign affairs. (The great thing about oral histories are that they are very diverse and often contain many different perspectives of the same events/issues.)

**Task:** Students will interview a parent/guardian (or any person old enough) who lived through and remembers the 1970s. You will find out as much as you can about the 1970s from the interview by asking the questions below, and any other questions you come up with that are relevant and appropriate. Then, you will summarize you interview questions/notes in a two page summary explaining what you found out about the 1970s.

\*If are unable to find somebody at home to interview, see me ASAP to work out arrangements to interview somebody on campus.\*

*Guiding Questions*

*Facts First:*

- What's your name? Where you were born? Where you lived? Family size? Any other background info.
- How would you describe your upbringing?

*1970s:*

*Culture:*

- Who were the popular musicians of the 1970s? Who were your favorite singers/groups? Have a favorite song? Which?

- What was TV like? How does it compare with TV shows of today? Why? Do you have any favorite 1970s shows? Which?
- What were some good movies of the 1970s? What's your favorite? Why?
- Are you a sports fan? Who were the big names in sports? Favorite teams?
- What was technology like back then? (ex: phones [lack of cell phones], planes, cars, etc)
- What do you remember about the counter-culture movement? How would you describe Woodstock?

*Politics:*

- What do you remember about the Vietnam War? Why was the U.S. involved? Where you involved? In what capacity? Any family/friends serve tour(s) in Vietnam? Thoughts/feelings?
- How would you describe the Nixon administration? What are your thoughts about Watergate?
- How would you describe the Carter administration?
- Overall, how would you describe the 1970s? Why?
- What's the single most important thing that came of the 1970s? Why?
- What's the biggest difference between 1970s America and today? Why?
- What else would you like to share about your experiences in the 1970s?

*Paper Guidelines:*

1. 2 full pages
2. 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, double-spaced
3. Name in the top right hand corner, push enter once, enter title, push enter once, begin typing.
4. Indent your paragraphs.
5. Personal pronouns are acceptable for this assignment.
6. Include in your paper a brief summary of the most important thing you learned about the 1970s based on your interview.