# Dr. Neal’s AP U.S. History Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**LHS Oral History Project – Primary Source Research**

**Find a family member, friend, neighbor, or other acquaintance to interview in order to learn first-hand history (primary source) of an important event that occurred in the United States during the 20th century.**

**Objective:** The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to learn from an individual who experienced a significant event that shaped the 20th century United States. You will supplement this primary source with additional research to obtain a more thorough understand of the historical event. (approximately **200 points)**

**Process:** This project includes several important steps. Steps 1-7 may be completed with a partner; however, steps 8-10 must be completed independently:

* Find an **individual who has experienced a historical event** that impacted the U.S. during the 20th century or 21st century (but more than 10 years ago) and who will allow you to interview him or her about that event.
* **Research the issue** or event carefully so that you have a strong understanding of the recorded history before you conduct the interview. Come up with an effective **research question.**
* Prepare a list of **10 to 20 questions** to use during your interview. It may be that you will modify or deviate from the list as the interview progresses, but you need to have a prepared list to keep you somewhat on track and organized, especially during lapses in conversation. Try to ask questions to encourage the interviewee to tell you stories rather than simply provide basic responses.
* Turn in an **oral history proposal which includes the following:**
	+ **your research question**
	+ **a general description of your plan of whom, when, and why to interview**
	+ **a general overview of the event and what you already know about it**
	+ **your list of potential interview questions (see above)**
	+ **a list of potential primary and secondary sources you have or may use for your final essay**
	+ **DUE: Tues/Wed., March 7/8 (25 points)**
* **Conduct your interview**. It would be easier for you if your interviewee allows you to video or tape record the conversation. However, recorders often make people uncomfortable, so you need to discuss the process ahead of time with your interviewee so that the interview can be as successful as possible.
* **Transcribe (type up) the interview,** script style. Limit the transcript to **2-3 pages** of the most interesting and historical responses to your questions. Try to quote the person you interviewed precisely. If that person would like, ask him or her to read through the transcription to make sure the information is accurate. This would be a good time to ask any follow-up questions and clarify any confusing information. **DUE: Thurs/Friday, April 27/28 (75 points)**
* Ask the person you interview to **sign the release form** to indicate whether or not the interview may be kept on file with Dr. Neal for future students to use as historical documentation. If you work with a partner, only one copy of the signature is necessary. **DUE: Thurs/Friday, April 27/28**

*While the steps above may be prepared with a partner, you will need to complete the following steps individually:*

* **Continue your research**, based on new or confusing information you learned from your interview so that you may acquire a detailed and accurate account of the issue or event.
* **Create a DBQ-style essay based on the historical event of your interview:**
* Come up with a good **DBQ question** that you can answer in a DBQ-style essay.
* Put together a selection of **4-6 documents** from primary or quality secondary sources.
	+ One or two of these is/are to be an excerpt from your interview.
	+ Additional documents can be excerpts (probably less than 100 words each) from historical sources, media reports, official documents (e.g., Gulf of Tonkin Resolution), speeches, or other quality sources.
	+ At least one document should be a visual such as a photo from the event, a political cartoon, a graph, a map, or other visual that will aid in understanding your historical topic/event.
* **Write an essay** on this issue based on a CHIPPY TOAST analysis. Your essay will be graded with the DBQ rubric. “Outside knowledge” will be considered any details of value that are not directly in or implied by your selection of documents. Remember to add information that provides contextualization and synthesis points to your discussion. Turn in the DBQ documents and essay together. DUE: **Tuesday/Wednesday, May 16/17 (100 points)**

DR. NEAL’S AP U.S. HISTORY

 Lakewood Senior High School

ORAL HISTORY RELEASE FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(interviewer’s name), hereby give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student(s)’ name) permission to use this interview \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of topic for interview) for the oral history assignment.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will allow the transcribed interview to be kept on file with Dr. Neal and to be used by other students in the future who wish to use this interview as a historical source document.

\_\_\_\_\_ The transcript of this interview is to be read ONLY by the student(s) listed above and Dr. Neal. It is not to be kept on file or shared with other people.

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(Signature) (Date)