Objective: Conduct oral history interviews with City College alumni/faculty/staff/students or administrators to create biographical essays and collect primary sources documenting different experiences at City College. The biographical essays and multimedia projects based on oral history interviews will become part of the City College History and Political Science Department’s Centennial Oral History Project. A number of biographical essays will become part of the Learning Resource Center (LRC) Archives and multimedia videos and presentations will become part of the History and Political Science webpage resources and/or played on campus closed circuit flat-screen televisions.

The purpose of this assignment is to synthesize class readings, discussions, and scholarly research, with an individual’s real life experiences at City College. Select an individual who has lived through a period under investigation in this course and conduct an oral history interview. Interviews should last a total of 2-3 hours total. You may conduct more than one interview sitting. Students will write a biographical essay from the interview and create a multimedia product highlighting the narrator’s experiences at City College. Students should tape record the interview and/or take accurate notes during the process.

I. Important Dates and Criteria
1. Length: Typed, 8 to 10 page biographical essay, double-spaced, 12-point font with 1-1.25 inch margins. Utilize MLA format.
2. Other Submissions: Students will also turn-in the audiotapes or notes of the interview(s) along with the paper. I will award extra credit for this assignment to students who transcribe the entire interview accurately.
3. Students will submit narrator information during week 7 of the course. On an index card include the following information: Full name (include maiden name if married) of narrator, place of birth and year, occupation, and contact information (district e-mail or office phone number). Also include specific themes you will discuss in the interview and how the narrator is related to City College. All narrators must be cleared through the instructor (This information is worth 5 points to Class Participation points).
4. Papers will be graded on content, grammar, and style.
5. Due: WEEK 15. BIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS are due at the beginning of class on the day specified in the class schedule. BIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS TURNED IN AFTER CLASS HAS STARTED WILL BE MARKED DOWN 20 POINTS. Late biographical essays will be marked down an additional 10% for every business day it is late. Submit the Biographical Essay to Blackboard, Turnitin folder.

II. Interview
Select several themes that we have discussed in class and ask your narrator appropriate questions regarding their life experiences. Prepare an outline and questions before the actual interview. Begin with basic information such as place and date of birth, family history (mother, father, siblings), early childhood memories to establish rapport with your narrator. A life history interview starts with a narrator’s childhood and continues to the present day.

Revised 4/25/2014
Questions or areas to explore may include family life, family traditions, young adult experiences, gender roles and expectations, important influences in the person’s life (both people and events), specific time periods (World War II, the 1960s, Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War).

Specific questions to think about may include:
- Tell me about the 1950s. What happened to your family?
- What was World War II like for you and your family?
- How did you select your area of employment? What were your other options?
- How and why did you immigrate to the United States? (If the person is an immigrant)
- What were your expectations of life in the United States? What was the reality?
- What happened during a specific time period in the narrator’s life?
- What historical events influenced your decision to attend or seek employment at City College?

Questions specific to City College may include:
- How did you hear about City College?
- How did you end up as a student/faculty/staff/administrator at City College?
- What were your first impressions of the campus?
- What was the campus like? Describe some of the buildings and classrooms.
- How has the campus changed since you first came to City College?
- What changes have you seen over the years and what factors influenced those changes?
- Were there interesting students/faculty/staff/administrators you recall?
- How did City College change your life? (PLEASE INCLUDE THIS QUESTION IN YOUR INTERVIEW)

III. Outline for Paper Structure
Follow the guidelines and topics below in developing your final project. I am available for consultation in every step of the paper writing and interview process. I encourage students to come in and discuss their project with me during office hours.

Selection Process and Research - Pages 1-2 (10 pts), discuss the following:
1. Why you selected the narrator and how did you go about the selection process?
2. What type of background research did you do?

Narrator Summary/Bio - Page 4-5 (10 pts), summarize the persons life and include year of birth, place of birth, educational background, employment and career path, civic activities and any other highlights or events of significance which this person was a participant.

Abstract – Page 6 (10 pts) summarize in one paragraph the major highlights of the narrator’s experiences at City College and what is covered in the City College Major Theme.

One “Good Story” Theme Pages 7-10 (25 pts), select ONE “good story” from the narrator’s life and write-up the narrator’s experience incorporating national events and contextualizing her/his life history within the US historical experience. Many of the

Revised 4/25/2014
narrators have lived interesting and amazing lives and this section wants to document significant events, trends, or periods that the narrator lived through.

**City College Major Theme** (select your own title for this section) - Pages 10-13 (40 pts), focus on the narrator’s personal experiences at City College. Additionally, integrate the narrator’s experiences into event happening on campus, San Diego in general, and national events. This part of the paper should discuss the big picture and then go in-depth into specific City College experiences of the narrator and should include highlights of “interesting stories” from the interview.

**Bibliography and Attachments** – (5 pts) The last page should be a bibliography/work cited page (utilize MLA format) that includes all of the sources utilized for the project. Students may also include attachments. This is not part of the 8 to 10 pages. Attachments may include copies or scans of photographs (if you scan any item, please make sure to scan at 900dpi or higher), documents of interest, old letters and other items that give the reader additional information concerning this person or supports the narrator’s stories.

**Multimedia Project** (50 points)
Review student learning outcome number nineteen: “Create a multimedia presentation for submission to the City College Centennial website.” The multimedia project will include 2 different products. The first product is PowerPoint slideshow (7 slides), highlighting the narrators experiences and contributions to City College. It will focus on the narrator’s work or experiences at City College and open a window into some aspect of student/faculty/staff life. The PowerPoint slideshow may be selected to play on campus closed-circuit television screens. The instructor will distribute a PowerPoint Master Template – please utilize the Master Template.

The second product is a longer PowerPoint slideshow (14 to 16 slides) providing a visual presentation of the biographical essay. Or, a three to five minute MP4 video file submitted to the instructor. The second product should also include a historical context and what is going on locally and nationally that impact the narrator.

**NOTES/QUESTIONS:**

Revised 4/25/2014