

Personal Archive Prompt: Interview

This prompt asks you to conduct an interview to include in your Personal Archive (PA). There are several paths you can take to complete this prompt. See below (Examples from the Archives) for some options.

You could interpret this several ways, you could interview:

- Yourself (past, present, or future versions)
- Another person
- Other people

Your interview could be conducted in several formats, you could:

- Develop a set of pre-determined questions you will ask
- Let the interview be free-form
- Some combination of pre-determined questions and free-form

How you choose to share your interview could take several forms, for your item you could share:

- A transcript (a written account of the interview)
- An interview summary (a written reflection on the interview, written after the interview has taken place)
- An audio recording
- A video recording
- Some combination of above -- but I recommend that no matter the form you will include in your papers, **you record the interview in some way**. This will help you make a transcription, write a summary/reflection, or upload a sound file.

Mark for yourself (and your viewer/reader): what are important questions to ask and conversations to have in this moment?

An important note: be sure you explicitly ask for and receive consent from any interviewee/s for their words, ideas, responses, likeness, etc. to be included in your papers.

Why an Interview?

This Personal Archive assignment, in general, is meant as a way for you to engage in deep, critical reflection about how you (and others) are experiencing the world at this time. To date, you have received 8 prompts and are now well-acquainted with the work of reflecting. Arranging for and conducting an interview is a way for you to further exercise your skills of critical reflection. Take the opportunity of conducting an interview to pursue an idea, topic, or exchange with a person that you have not yet been able to address in your papers.

Consider the following to help you choose and describe your item:

- Why did I choose to interview this person/people?
- How did I anticipate they would answer the questions I asked/respond in conversation?



- What about their responses challenged my assumptions?
- Was there any topic or idea that I was able to address in this interview that I might not be able to in usual conversation? What was it?
- What did I learn about myself and my interviewee/s in this interview process?

The answers to these questions should help you compose the description of the item.

After you create/identify your image, follow the directions under the heading [How to Complete Personal Archive Prompts] in the document [Introduction for Students: The Personal Archive Assignment].

Example from the Archives

***Instructor's Choice:** insert an example from an institutionally affiliated archive or archive of your choice. Alternately, use the example below.*

In their ongoing [Letters from 6' Away](#) project, The [South Asian American Digital Archive \(SAADA\)](#) provides prompts to write yourself a letter, which can then be submitted to the archive. You can easily use their prompts as questions for an interview. If you or your interviewee identifies as South Asian American and you use this framework for your interview, I encourage you to submit your response to the archive!

The UWM Libraries Digital Collection contains a number of oral histories in the collection. Be sure to review how metadata for Interviewer & Interviewee/s is formatted.

- [Oral History Interview with Margaret \(Peggy\) Rozga, June 19, 2007](#)
Description: This is a StoryCorps interview with Margaret "Peggy" Rozga. The interview was conducted by Michael Gordon on June 19, 2007, at the Milwaukee Public Library. Rozga was born and grew up on Milwaukee's South Side and became interested in civil rights while attending Alverno College. She recounts her experience registering voters in Alabama during the summer of 1965, meeting and later marrying Father Groppi, the Eagles Club protests of 1966, her experience with the open housing marches, and her role with the NAACP Youth Council.
- [Oral History Interview with Britt Brown and Noel Rosado, March 25, 2007](#)
Description: Britt Brown and Noel Rosado discuss their twenty-year-long relationship. They talk about adopting a son and being gay parents. They elaborate on their involvement in their Christian church. Additionally, they react to the passage of Wisconsin Referendum 1 and envision the future of their relationship.
- [Oral History Interview with Catherine M. Balistrieri, March 23, 1991](#)
Description: Catherine Balistrieri's parents came to Milwaukee from Sant'Elia and Porticello, near Palermo, Italy. Catherine was born in 1904 and grew up in Milwaukee's Third Ward. She remembers the growth of the Third Ward, her Mother's side-business cooking and baking for social events, working at Phoenix Hosiery, eloping with her husband, and the neighborhood holiday festivals.

