Project
Oral History of Events
**Oral History of Events**

*(Student’s Copy)*

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<th>Name of Student:</th>
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<td>Name of School:</td>
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<td>Class: VI</td>
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<td>Assessor(s):</td>
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**Subjects:** Social Studies (History), English

**Content Questions:**
1. *What* is oral history?
2. *How* can oral accounts help us to learn about the past?
3. *How* can we *differentiate* between primary and secondary sources of information through which we learn about the past?
4. *What* is the difference between first person and third person narrative?
5. *Which* style of narrative is suitable for a report?

**Driving Question:** Why do we study History?

**Learning Outcomes:**
1. To use interview as a method of *collecting information*
2. To *interpret* historic events in the light of information gathered.
3. To *compare* the information gathered with other sources of information.

**Suggested Time:** 7-9 class periods (3 weeks)

**Presentation:** Report

**Required Materials:** Voice recorder/ mobile phone and books of history/ computer with internet connection

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate - Difficult
**Task**

History is not just a compilation of facts and figures but a network of experiences of people just like us. Many elderly people in your family or neighbourhood would have lived through events that we study in the books of history, for example (i) the 1965 war between India and Pakistan (ii) separation of East Pakistan in 1971 and (iii) the influx of Afghan refugees in Pakistan in 1979. Choose any one of these events and read about it from a book of history or the internet. Then interview any one person who has lived during this time and enquire how this event affected them personally. Finally, write a report on your chosen event based on the information you have collected through the interview and your own research.

**Method**

1. You can do this project either individually, in pairs or in small groups. *Consult* with your classmates and teacher and *reach a decision* about it.

2. *Read* some oral history reports on the following webpage:  
   

   *Enquire* from your teacher about anything you do not understand.

3. *Discuss* with your group to *identify* the following:
   a. The event on which you will write your report. You can choose one from the list provided in the ‘Task’ section, or any other national or international event of your choice.
   b. The person whom you will interview. This person should have lived through the time when your chosen event took place and should have memory of it so that he/ she is able to give you an interesting perspective regarding the impact of the event on people’s lives.

4. *Read* about this event from books of history and/ or the internet and *collect* and *record* essential facts and interesting details about it in your research journals or notebooks.

5. *List* questions that you would like to ask your interviewee about important experiences related to this event. Then, in small groups, peer-review each other’s questions and make a final list with the help of your teacher.

6. *Conduct* and *record* the interview. You can either record it on a tape, digital or mobile phone recorder and then listen to it and take notes on paper or you can take rough notes during the interview and then add the details from memory later.

7. Use your research and interview notes to *draft* your report.

   Instructions for writing the report:
   - The report should be written in the third person narrative. Your teacher will discuss with you the difference between first person and third person narratives.

   (Point to Ponder: Why do think most reports are written in the third person?)
• You may add some quotes from the interview.
• You can organize your report in the following sections:
  i. General introduction of the interviewee and why you chose to interview him/ her
  ii. Description of the person’s experience about the event
  iii. Impact of the historical event:
    1. Why was it important?
    2. What effect did it have on Pakistan?
    3. What effect did it have on him/ her?
  iv. Similarities and/ or differences between his/ her experiences and documented records of that event
  v. Your learning about history from the interview
8. Request two of your classmates and one of your teachers to review the first draft of your report.
   Analyse the suggestions given by them and incorporate the ones that you think will improve your report.
Submission Guidelines:
Compile, organise and submit to your teachers the following items in your project portfolio folder for the
assessment of this project:
• Discussion notes
• Your interview questionnaire
• Your interview notes
• Rough draft of your report
• Final draft of your report