Voice of Witness Cooking & Culture:
An Oral History Project and Presentation

About the project: We will be creating an oral history cookbook, which will include recipes, short quotes, and stories about the person you interview.

1. **Written Recipe**: Ask an adult relative, teacher, counselor, neighbor, friend, or community member to share a recipe that is important to them and their culture.

2. **Oral History Interview**: Conduct an interview with the relative, teacher, counselor, neighbor, friend, or community member about the recipe they shared with you.

3. **Written Narrative**: Write a narrative about the interview experience, the recipe you learned, and the story behind the recipe, including 1-2 quotes from the interview.

4. **Oral Presentation**: Using information from your interview and written reflection, create a short oral presentation about your narrator's story and your experience as an oral historian to share with an audience.

CHECKLIST:

	Make a list of narrators
	Pick a narrator and tell them about the cookbook
	Pick a day and time with your narrator to interview them
	Practice questions for your interview
	Ask your narrator to sign the release (permission) form
	Do the interview - Record it on your Chromebook, phone, or write down quotes
	Write down the recipe with your narrator
	Take a picture of your narrator (if you can)
	Listen to your interview and pick 1-2 quotes you like
	Transcribe (write down) the quotes
	Write an introduction about your narrator
	Write the story behind the recipe (a paragraph)
	Prepare your oral presentation by writing down what you want to share
	Present your project

Oral History Project Release Form

I, _____ (narrator full name) hereby give permission for _____ (student full name) and Voice of Witness to record, transcribe, share, or otherwise use for nonprofit purposes, this interview, including any photographs.

I will receive a copy of the final cookbook and/or recording of my interview from my interviewer upon my request.

I understand that my recipe, some quotes, and a photograph will be shared at a presentation coordinated by my student interviewer and his/her/their school.

_____

Signature

_____

Date

_____

Phone Number

_____

Email Address

Project Assessment Rubric

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	POINTS		
Stage 1: Identification of a person to interview (10 points) *You lose a point for every day late.*	**10 points** You have brainstormed a short list of people (3-5) to interview and submitted a list.	**8 points** You have only one potential person to interview.	**5 points** You have completed Stage 1 but missed the deadline. You have not turned in your work.
Stage 2: Interview preparation (15 points) *You lose a point for every day late.*	**15 points** You have narrowed your list to one person, scheduled a date/time for the interview, and prepared a list of thoughtful, open-ended questions that you have submitted to the teacher.	**9 points** Stage 2 is on time; however, the questions are not as open-ended, thoughtful, or theme-specific as needed.	**3 points** You have completed Stage 2 but missed the deadline, or it is incomplete.
Stage 3: The interview, debrief, and follow-up (20 points) *You lose a point for every day late.*	**30 points** The interview is complete (10 pts), a release form has been collected, the digital recording has been saved and uploaded, you have taken a portrait photo, you wrote down the recipe and informed your narrator of next steps.	**15 points** The interview is complete, but you are missing one or two of the following: a portrait photo, a release form, or the digital recording. You are partially prepared for the next step.	**5 points** The interview is incomplete and you are missing two or more of the following: a portrait photo, a release form, or the digital recording. You missed the deadline, or it is incomplete. You are unprepared for the next step.
Stage 4: Transcribing and editing (30 points) *You lose a point for every day late.*	**20 points** Stage 3 is complete, and you have transcribed 1-2 quotes from the interview and typed out the recipe in a google doc.	**10 points** Stage 3 is complete, but you have not typed out the recipe and have transcribed only 1quote.	**5 points** Stage 3 is now complete but you have no transcribed any quotes or typed the recipe.
Stage 5: The final project and presentation (75 points) *You lose a point for every day late.*	**75 points** The final project presents an oral history narrative, an introduction of the narrator along with the photo and recipe. You have prepared a google slide and oral presentation that is clear, concise and honors the narrator.	**60 points** The final project presents the oral history narrative along with a photo and recipe. You have prepared a google slide and oral presentation is unclearly designed, written, and/or presented.	**25 points** The final project presents the oral history narrative along with a photo and recipe. You have not prepared a google slide and oral presentation.

Total Points Earned: _____ / 150 points possible

VOICE OF WITNESS

Oral History Project Basics

Every interview is unique. Each experience is specific to the narrator and the story they decide to tell. Be open to the story you're about to hear, and what you might learn about family, culture, and tradition!

Remember to use follow-up questions, and not only the questions prepared before the interview. Listen closely to your narrator, and respond to their story appropriately.

Check your recording device. If you are using a smartphone with an application such as Voice Memo (iOS) or Voice Recorder (Android) to record your interview, remember to switch your phone to "Airplane Mode" to prevent notifications from interrupting your interview. Test the microphone and sound on your device, and make sure it is placed close enough to hear both you and your narrator speaking.

Choose a quiet, comfortable location for your interview. This might be your home, an empty classroom, or the library.

When it's time to transcribe quotes, listen to the interview first, and mark down the times when your narrator said something particularly important, emotional, or impactful. Choose from those quotes and decide which ones will fit best into your written narrative, then type them as accurately as possible.

Talk to your narrator throughout this process. Ask them for their opinion and advice! Remember, you are sharing *their* story. Honor your narrator's story by respecting their honesty, courage, and willingness to share.

Project Checklist

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ALL OF THESE THINGS FOR FULL CREDIT!

- ❑ Oral Project **Release Form** signed by you and your narrator
- ❑ **Take a picture** of your narrator or ask them to share a picture
- ❑ A complete **recording of your interview** on recorder or your phone
- ❑ Written **recipe** (check with your narrator)

Oral History Interview Questions

Remember, interview questions are suggestions, not a checklist. You don't have to ask all of the questions on this list—you don't even need to ask any of them! These are just ideas to get you started in the interview process.

- What is the recipe you want to share with me today?
    - ¿Cuál es la receta que quieres compartir conmigo hoy?

- Why did you choose this recipe?
    - ¿Por qué eligió esta receta?

- How is this recipe related to your family/your culture?
    - ¿Cómo se relaciona esta receta con su familia o su cultura?

- What does "food" mean to you and your culture?
    - ¿Qué significa la comida para usted y su cultura?

- Can you share a specific memory related to this recipe? Maybe the first time you made it, or who taught you?
    - ¿Puede compartir una memoria específica relacionada con esta receta? Por ejemplo, fue la primera vez que lo hiciste o ¿quién te enseñó?

Follow-up Questions

The best details in a story often come through the follow-up questions. Once your narrator describes an event or experience from their life, ask them for more details. The sights, the sounds, the feelings. These descriptive details can add a lot to your narrative!

- Can you tell me a little more about [experience/event]?
    - ¿Puede contarme un poco más sobre la experiencia o evento?

- Where did you learn to make [recipe]? Can you describe what you saw, felt, heard?
    - ¿Dónde aprendió a hacer la comida o la receta? ¿Puede describir lo que vio, sintió, escuchó?

- What does [ingredient] look like, feel like, taste like?
    - ¿Cómo se ve, se siente y se sabe [ingrediente]?

- Can you describe how [recipe] tastes to you?
    - ¿Puede describir cómo le sabe [receta]?