How to Prepare Good Oral History Questions



ORAL HISTORY HOW-TO GUIDES

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? Good questions are vital to recording a focused oral history documenting a narrator's contributions to the ongoing Restoration.

WHAT TO KNOW. Begin writing questions using the outlines provided on the Church History Specialist website. Consult other resources such as the *Complete Oral History Interview* video or a Church history representative.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Introduction to Oral History by the Baylor University Institute for Oral History
- Church History Specialist website
 - Video: Complete Oral History Interview
 - **PDF:** Oral History outlines

START



DEFINE the goals for this oral history. Ask questions like "What are we trying to capture?" or "What stories or experiences will add to the history of the Church in your area?" Develop the outline for this oral history using a combination of research, pre-oral history, contact with the narrator, and the provided outlines.

BRAINSTORM open-ended, simple questions. Avoid questions that elicit a one-word (or very brief) response and questions already covered in the *Pre-Oral History Questionnaire*.



3

MEET with the narrator to discuss topics. Incorporate their feedback.



PLAN follow-up questions, especially for when the narrator gives one-word or very brief responses.



4

INVITE the Holy Ghost to guide the oral history. Follow the promptings that come.





SUCCESS

Thoughtful questions (and follow-up questions) are documented to properly guide the oral historian.



HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP? Speak with your manager and refer to sections 3.5 and 4.7 of the Oral Histories guide.