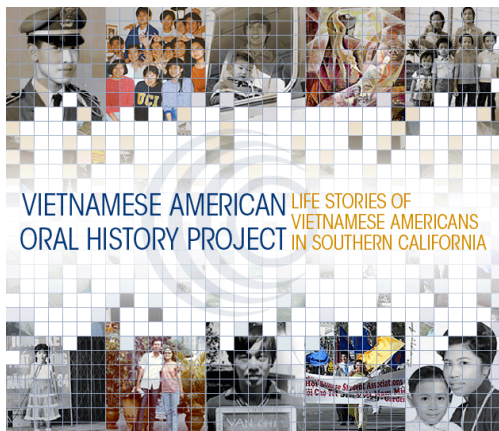


EXPLORING ORAL HISTORIES



Introduction

An oral history is a great way to learn about past events through the first-hand experiences of people who have lived through them. Usually an oral history includes a narrated life history that has been recorded or preserved in some way.

Objective

- To introduce students to oral histories.
- To learn more about the Vietnamese American Oral History Project (VAOHP) at UC Irvine.
- To encourage students to conduct a short oral history.
- To learn more about family history.

Supplies Needed

- Notepad and pencil for taking notes
- Audio recording device or video recorder.
- A quiet space for conducting your interview

Directions

Read ONE of the 4 life story panels located near the entrance of the gallery (Dung T. Pham, Nhan Thi Nguyen, Truong Le Chi & Hoang Dai Hai, or Nguyen Khai).

What did you like the most about his/her life story and why?

What surprised you about his/her story?

Can you or your family members relate to any of these experiences? In what ways?

What events would you include in your own life story?

If you would like to record the oral history of a friend, family member, or neighbor, here are some tips to get started. You can also hear and read the oral histories collected by the volunteers at the [Vietnamese American Oral History Project](#) (VAOHP) at UC Irvine.

Questions to get you started (feel free to write your own questions)

- What is your name?
- When and where were you born?
- Where did you grow up?
- Describe the house that you grew up in. Describe your room.
- How many children were in your family, and where were you in the line-up?
- What did your parents do for a living? Did you have a job when you were growing up?
- When did you learn to cook, and who taught you? Were there any special family foods or recipes? Do you still cook them?
- What did you like most about your hometown or neighborhood?
- What were your favorite school memories growing up?
- Who was your best friend when you were my age? What do you most remember about him or her?
- Who were your favorite teachers?
- What games did you play as a child?
- As a child what did you want to be when you grew up?
- What were your favorite family traditions? How do you still carry on some of these things?
- What activities did the family do together?
- What person had the most positive influence on your life? What did he or she do to positively influence you?