

Legacy of Honor: U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project Training Manual

About Transcripts

We are not asking our volunteer interviewers to transcribe their tapes, or to write stories from the interviews. You may certainly do so, if you would like, and your work would be deeply appreciated. (We are attaching information about transcribing.)

If you would like to write a story from the interview for publication in the next Narratives, which will be produced by the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin, we would certainly give you a byline and a nice public tip of the hat.

One thing that separates an oral history project that is useful and used from one that isn't is transcribing the interviews. To that end, our goal is to transcribe each interview, providing a word-for-word written and searchable record of the interview.

The transcript should also include counter annotations – a way for a user to easily know on what part of the tape the subject talks about his school years. On the sample transcript that follows, you'll see that Mr. Ramirez talks about segregated schools at (3:03) of the tape. Marking off an interview in this way is standard procedure for oral history interviews, as well as for broadcast journalists and film producers. Transcribing is essential – no one will have the time or energy to listen to the entire interview to find that place where your interview subject talks about the Great Depression. But if we have it clearly annotated, they can easily go to that part of the tape.

We're not asking that you transcribe your interview – that is optional. There are transcribing machines that make transcribing a tape much easier. Where possible, we'll use volunteer transcribers who have access to the equipment. In other cases, we will endeavor to hire students to complete that phase of the project.

We include a sample of a transcript on the following pages.

(Sample omitted from PDF version)