

This assignment aims to teach students how to approach sensitive topics in interviews with compassion and respect while critically analyzing how interviews are conducted and reported.

The assignment uses QAP oral history interviews to help students explore how LGBTQ experiences have evolved over time at Lafayette. By analyzing these interviews, students not only gain a deeper understanding of LGBTQ issues but must reflect on the importance of respectful journalism when handling sensitive topics. The assignment pushes students to think critically about the ethics and techniques of interviewing, connecting classroom theory to real-world application through the QAP.

ENG 353: Advanced Journalistic Writing
Professor Kathleen Parrish

Exploring LGBTQ Experiences Through Interviews

Instructions:

1. Read the first three pages of the Queer Archives Project Scalar site
2. Choose and review the transcripts and audio interviews of three LGBTQ alumni from different decades. Pay close attention to their experiences as members of the LGBTQ community on Lafayette's campus.
3. Write a three-page response that addresses the following:
 - Themes & Issues: Identify key personal, societal, and structural challenges the alumni faced because of their sexuality.
 - Comparative Analysis: Compare and contrast the experiences of alumni across different decades. What has changed on campus, and what has remained the same in terms of climate and support for LGBTQ students?
 - Media Format: Discuss how reading the transcripts differs from listening to the audio. How did each format impact your understanding or emotional response to the interviews?
 - Interviewing Technique: Reflect on the interview process. Were there any questions you would have asked differently or new ones you feel should have been addressed? Explain your reasoning.
 - Personal Reaction: Summarize your overall reaction to the interviews. How did these conversations impact your understanding of LGBTQ experiences at Lafayette?