# Project 2: Creating a Critical Addendum

## Assignment Description

In this unit, you will expand your critical inquiry skills by exploring an issue that interests you in the course of listening to local oral histories. You will listen to people tell stories about local figures, events, places, and histories. Together with a partner, you will follow-up on a subject that you find yourselves wanting to know more about. You will use primary and secondary research in order to discover more about this subject, and you will present your findings for your audience in an interesting and informative way. Your audience will be your fellow students at The University of Kentucky, as well as non-students living in Lexington. You should assume a knowledgeable audience who may not have a complete college education.

The information you present and follow up on should have some kind of local significance to it. For example, if you are interested in a national event that an interviewee describes, then you and your partner should explore how similar events unfolded in Kentucky or Lexington. Similarly, you and your partner might want to explore whether or not people/groups in Kentucky are experiencing the same kinds of conditions that a different interviewee describes.

Specifics:

Your final project will be a “critical addendum” that can supplement and expand upon the oral histories that are already online.

You will present your work to a wide audience in a web-text that includes a combination of words, images, sound. You will also deliver a 5 - 7 minute symposium-style speech.

#### Partners

While you will be conducting research with a partner, your projects are independent projects, meaning that your essay will uniquely reflect your analysis and interpretation. So, although you will have your partner with you at your interview for support, your choice of interviewee should be related to the angle of your individual paper. In order to ensure that your and your partner’s work does not overlap too much, the two of you must interview individuals with different perspectives or information on the event, person, place, or object you’re exploring. For example, you might interview someone who feels positively about the event, person, place, or object, while your partner interviews someone who has a negative view of the same topic. You might also choose to interview people who belong to different groups involved in the topic. Think carefully about how you can present different perspectives and keep in mind that you will have to produce a text / deliver a speech that differs significantly from your partner’s.

### Web-text

In the essay portion of this unit, you will produce a partner created web-text online about your findings. This is an involved research project, so you will work through several steps:

1. *With your partner*, you will conduct extensive primary and secondary research, including interviewing two individuals (one per student) with knowledge, experience, or information relevant to your topic.
2. *Individually*, *though in conversation with your partner*, you will analyze and interpret your research in order to compose a digital draft. Your draft will use secondary research to provide a context/framework for your interpretation of your primary research (i.e. your interview).
3. After revising your individual paper based on instructor and peer feedback, you and your partner will create a web-text that presents an argument through
   1. words (as a written argument), sounds from your interviews, images taken from archives or from fieldwork,
   2. a team-written introduction that explains your topic and the purpose of your web-text
   3. a team-created resources page/information gallery for readers interested in knowing more about the topic

#### Parameters

Your text must include dynamic combinations of words, images, and sound/video. The ratio or text to images or sounds will be discussed in more detail when we begin this project. Your individual contribution to the web-text must include at least 6 different research sources. One of these sources must be your interview. Your other credible sources may be from articles, archival materials, books, newspapers, blogs, magazines, or websites, all cited in the text and on a works cited page. In order to receive full credit, you must provide a rough draft. This project will be worth 20% of your final grade.

#### Essay submission

The final format that your digital essay takes will *not* be a double-spaced, typewritten document with 12-point font and 1” margins. Feel free to experiment with formatting when your essays go live online. You will post a link to Blackboard on the due date.

### Speech Symposium

Using the research and writing that you completed for the essay portion of this unit, you will develop an informative speech in the Ignite presentational format that will be given alongside your partner’s speech. While you will be writing individual outlines, you and your research partner will coordinate to ensure that your speech content and Ignite images do not overlap during the symposium. At the end of your panel, time will be opened for Q&A; each person will be responsible for fielding at least one question.

#### Parameters

Your Ignite speech must be 5 - 7 minutes; points will be deducted for going over or under the time limits, for not using a *speaking outline*. You may not use the lectern for this speech. Your speech must include at least 4 citations; one must be from an interview you conducted. Because these source requirements are similar to those for the paper, overlap of sources is allowed. In order to receive full credit, you must provide a rough draft. This project will be worth 20% of your final grade.

**Rough timeline**

**(Pay attention to actual due dates on syllabus)**

Oct. 11-17

Meet with partner(s). Discuss oral history piece that you all find most interesting.

Rewatch the piece, making notes. Hold brainstorming session, comparing notes on what questions you have, threads you found interesting, or things you wish you knew more about as a result of this speaker’s interview. Decide on several questions that you would like to follow up on. These will be your initial research questions.

Do some initial research in the Kentuckiana Digital Archives and other spaces to see what you find. Record all research notes on Tumblr. Meet with your partner to share your findings.

October 18-24

Decide on what single focus you’d like to investigate. Create a proposal with your partner. Create your two-minute proposal pitch. Continue research and post your research online.

Create a timeframe and deadlines with your partner. Meet and discuss possible interview subjects. Make contacts and set up interview times.

October 25-31

Continue research. Conduct and finish ALL interviews. Briefly paraphrase interview highlights on Tumblr. Create online research presentation that highlights images, clips, pictures, sounds from your project so far.

Begin brainstorming the look and design of your webtext.

November 1-7

Write/design webtext.

November 8-14

Write webtext and speech

**Examples of questions for kick starting research**

Interview with Ian Abney

* Historical
  + What was the experience of WWII and Vietnam vets returning to UK?
    - Found in Kentuckiana Digital Archives- *Blue-Tail Fly*, December 1969
* Cause/Effect
  + Abney mentions studying Islamic Studies at UK as a result of his experiences. Has this program changed or developed as a result of the two ongoing wars?