**The Script – Immigration and Migration**

**NOTE: Feel free to alter the language of any question as long as the same information is gathered.**

1. “My name is (INTERVIEWER NAME) and I am interviewing (INTERVIEWEE NAME) in (LOCATION) on (DATE). Do you give me permission to record and make public this oral history?”
2. REMINDER: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
3. How are you?
4. Please share as much basic information as you are willing to share:
   1. Name? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Age? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Occupation? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   4. Neighborhood? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   5. Place of Origin? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   6. First Language? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   7. Other Languages Spoken? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   8. Ethnic Identity? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   9. Gender Identity/Preferred Pronouns? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   10. Sexual Orientation? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nation of Origin -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE

1. Could you describe what your life looked like before you came to the United States.
   1. How was your childhood in your place of origin?
2. Why did you leave your place/country of origin?
   1. How did you think the move would impact your future?
3. Why did you decided to come to the United States/NYC instead of another country/city?
4. What do you miss about your place/country of origin?
5. What were you happy to leave behind from your place/country of origin?
6. Was there anything you left behind because it was not sufficiently “American”?
7. What did your friends and family say when you told them you were leaving?
8. How would you compare NYC to the place from which you came in regards to…
   1. Affordability?
   2. Opportunity?
   3. Lifestyle/Culture?
   4. Community?
   5. Safety?
   6. Relationship with government and law enforcement?
   7. Housing?
9. Were there any surprising similarities between your place of origin and NYC?
   1. Like what?

Journey to NYC -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE

1. Tell me about your journey to New York.
   1. Could you describe it step-by-step from the day you left to the day you arrived?
   2. Did it go according to plan?
2. What year, and with whom did you come to NYC?
   1. How old were you?
   2. Who was left behind?
3. What belongings did you have when you arrived?
4. How did NYC meet, and fail to meet your expectations?
   1. From what, or whom did you form your expectations of NYC before your arrival in the city?
5. How were you received upon your arrival?
   1. How did you choose the neighborhood where you ended up?
   2. Did you find a community that made you feel like you belonged when you arrived?
6. What was the hardest part about your move to NYC?

Adjusting to NYC -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE

1. How did you adjust to a new language and/or culture in NYC?
   1. If you went to school in NYC after arriving, what was that transition like?
   2. How long did that process take?
   3. What about your children, siblings or younger family members who spent more of their youth in NYC? How has it been different for them?
2. What did you do for work when you first arrived?
   1. What has been the best—and the worst—job you’ve had since coming NYC?
3. How did you meet people when you first arrived?
4. What in your life keeps you connected to your nation/place of origin?
   1. How do you remind yourself of home?
   2. How do you remain connected to the people still living in your home country/community?
   3. Are people from your place of origin who live in NYC the same as people back in your place of origin?
   4. Do you ever visit your original home? Why or why not?
5. If you feel like you have been, how do you think you’ve been changed by living in NYC?
6. If you do, how do you navigate a bilingual—or non-English—life?
7. Have you ever faced racism or anti-immigrant abuse for what you look like or where you’re from?
   1. Was there a moment that you realized you could be treated differently because you were an immigrant?
8. Was there ever a moment of regret for leaving? Can you tell me about that experience.
9. How would your life be different if you never came to NYC?

Becoming a New Yorker -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE

1. What’s your favorite part about living in New York?
   1. What’s your least favorite part?
2. Who are the people who helped you along the way?
3. How has your neighborhood changed since your arrival?
4. Do you ever feel you need to hide who you are?
5. What has it been like navigating the U.S. immigration system?
6. If you’ve become, or are on the path to citizenship, please tell me about that process.
   1. What obstacles have you had to overcome in your pursuit of citizenship?
7. How has the politics of the last decade impacted your experience as an immigrant, and your community in NYC?

Finishing Up -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE

1. What’s one piece of advice you would give to immigrants or migrants just arriving in NYC?
   1. Or planning to leave their place of origin?
2. Is there anything that I should have asked that I didn’t ask?
3. Are You Still Comfortable Donating this Oral History?