**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 ANSWER 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 From? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   5. Borough? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   6. Country/Place of Origin? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   7. Religion? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   8. First Language? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   9. Other Languages Spoken? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   10. Ethnic Identity? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   11. Gender Identity/Preferred Pronouns? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   12. 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 homeland?
2. Why did you leave your homeland?
   1. What were the struggles and hardships did you face before you immigrated?
   2. How did you think the move would impact your future?
3. Why did you decide to come to the United States/NYC instead of another country/city?
   1. Did you have any options in mind?
4. What do you miss about your place/country of origin?
   1. What was your family’s reaction to you leaving?
5. What were you happy to leave behind from your place/country of origin?
6. Was there anything sentimental you regret leaving behind?
7. Who was the hardest person to say goodbye to?
8. How would you compare NYC to your homeland in regards to Affordability?
   1. What’s the exchange rate to your nation of origin?
   2. How has it changed since you moved here?
9. How would you compare NYC to your homeland in regards to Opportunity?
   1. Can you give me some examples?
10. How would you compare NYC to your homeland in regards to Lifestyle/Culture?
    1. What are the religious differences?
11. How would you compare NYC to your homeland in regards to Community?
    1. Was it drastic?
    2. How did it impact you?
12. How would you compare NYC to your homeland in regards to Environment?
13. How would you compare NYC to your homeland in regards how people treat each other?
    1. We’re you treated differently here than in your homeland?
14. How would you compare NYC to your homeland to Safety?
    1. Do you feel safe in NYC now?
    2. Where do you feel safer?
15. How would you compare NYC to your homeland in regards to the relationship with the government?
    1. How about law enforcement?
    2. Did you feel you had support from the govt. in your homeland when you needed it? Why or why not?
       1. NYC?
16. How would you compare NYC to your homeland in regards to Housing?
    1. Was it difficult to find housing when you first immigrated?
    2. If so, who helped you and how?
17. Do you see elements of your culture of origin in NYC?

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

1. Tell me about your journey to New York.
   1. What are the most impactful memories of your journey from your country to the United States that you’re willing to share?
   2. What challenges did you face on your way to NYC?
   3. Were there sacrifices you had to make in order to come to this country?
2. With whom did you come to NYC?
   1. What year?
   2. How long have you lived in NYC?
   3. How old were you?
3. What possessions did you bring with you and how did you deem whether they were important enough to take?
4. Did NYC meet your expectations? (Follow Up)
   1. What did NYC look like in your head before arriving?
   2. Did anyone or anything have any influence on this image of NYC?
5. What was it like for you when you first arrived in NYC?
   1. How did you, or your family, end up in your neighborhood?
   2. How was your place of residency decided?
   3. Did you have any family who lived here prior to coming to U.S.?
   4. Were you able to find a community of people from similar backgrounds or did you feel alone?
6. What was the hardest part about your move to NYC?
   1. Do you ever feel homesick
7. How has the move impacted your relationship with the people back home?
   1. Do you and your loved ones from back home still talk regularly?
8. Were there moments in your journey that changed any views or ideals you had?

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

1. If you did, how did you adjust to a new language and/or culture in NYC?
   1. What did this change make you feel?
2. If you went to school in NYC after arriving, what was that transition like?
   1. Did you feel pressure to fit in and assimilate with your classmates?
3. Were you teased or discriminated against because of your ethnic background?
4. Did it take a while for you to become comfortable living here?
   1. Did you have a good support system, or did you feel alone?
   2. Did you ever think about moving back to your homeland?
5. Do you feel like your younger relatives (kids, brothers & cousins) have benefitted from the opportunities given to people here?
   1. How has it been different for them than it was for you?
   2. Did they learn the language faster than your relatives?
   3. Was your family scared for people in the younger generation to go out into this new world without them?
6. What did you, or your guardian, do for work when you first arrived?
   1. What was the process of applying for a job like when you first came?
   2. What has been the best—and the worst—job you’ve had since coming NYC?
   3. Do you ever feel overqualified for the jobs you can attain, as an immigrant, in the United States?
7. How did you meet people when you first arrived?
   1. Were people nice to you?
   2. How did you communicate with others if you didn’t speak the same language?
8. 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. Do you ever send money back home?
   4. Do you ever visit your original home? Why or why not?
   5. What food traditions do you continue from your place of origin?
   6. Would you ever go back permanently?
9. Has living in NYC changed you in any way? If so, how?
   1. Do you feel like you’re now a “real New Yorker”?
   2. Would you ever leave NYC for another part of the United States?
10. If you do, how do you navigate a bilingual—or non-English—life?
    1. Do you serve as a translator for anyone in your family? If so, what is that like?
    2. Did anyone ever translate for you and how does that make you feel?
11. Have you ever faced racism or anti-immigrant abuse for what you look like or where you’re from? (Please Explain)
    1. Was there a moment that your realized you could be treated differently because you were an immigrant?
       1. How did this impact your identity as an immigrant?
    2. How is discrimination different here?
12. How would your life be different if you never came to NYC?
    1. How would you be different?
    2. Do you live more comfortably here than you did in your homeland?

Becoming a New Yorker -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER 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. Tell me about your household in NYC.
4. How has your neighborhood changed since your arrival?
   1. Do you feel like crime in your neighborhood has gotten worse since the pandemic?
5. Do you ever feel you need to hide who you are?
   1. Has anyone ever made you feel like you didn’t belong? (What was it related to?)
6. What has it been like navigating the U.S. immigration system?
7. 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?
   2. How did you prepare for the exam?
8. How has the politics of the last decade impacted your experience as an immigrant, and your community in NYC?
   1. Is there anything you feel should be changed?
9. Is there something you really want to do in the city, but haven’t had the opportunity to do yet?

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

1. What’s one piece of advice you would give to immigrants or migrants just arriving in NYC?
2. Would you do it all over again?
3. Do you plan to spend your whole life in NYC? Why or why not?
4. Is there anything that I should have asked that I didn’t ask?
5. Are You Still Comfortable Donating this Oral History?