**The Script – Protest and Pandemic**

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

Before you begin recording the interview remind the interviewee that they do not have to answer any questions they are uncomfortable answering.

1. Introduction
   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. 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. Religion? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      7. First Language? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      8. Ethnic Identity? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      9. Gender Identity? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      10. Sexual Orientation? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   4. Are you and your family from NYC? If not, tell me how you ended up in New York City.
2. Urban Life -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
   1. How do you get around in the City? (Follow Up/Clarify)
      1. What was your experience with the transportation system in NYC?
         1. Do you feel safe in NYC’s public transportation system? Why or why not?
         2. What, if anything, would you change about the transportation system?
         3. Do you have any experiences with people who were mentally ill on public transit?
            1. Do you think the authorities handled it appropriately?
      2. Do you have any notable stories while using public transportation in NYC?
   2. Do you feel safe in your community?
      1. Do you feel safe in your community? Why or why not?
      2. Do you feel safe getting around the city?
         1. Do you feel differently about your safety in the city since the start of the pandemic?
      3. How does law enforcement fit into your vision of safety in NYC?
         1. Do you think they’re doing a good job? Why or why not?
   3. What’s it like living in a city that has so many diverse cultures?
      1. If you have, how have you benefited from NYC’s diversity?
      2. Has NYC’s diversity significantly impacted your life?
   4. Would you consider NYC to be racially segregated – meaning not diverse?
      1. How about your neighborhood?
      2. Why or why not?
   5. What have been your experiences with the NYC public education system, as a student, parent, and/or an observer? (Follow Up)
      1. Have you experienced segregation in the school system?
      2. If so, what do you think are the consequences of that segregation?
   6. What are some common traits of all New Yorkers?
   7. In what ways have you been shaped by the culture of NYC?
   8. Do you believe certain groups of New Yorkers have to change their personas to “fit in” (Code Switch)?
3. Housing -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
   1. Tell me about your household in NYC; The people in it and the space itself.
   2. How well do you know the people in your community?
      1. What public support systems have you utilized in your community?
         1. What can you do to protect yourself, your family and your community?
   3. What does good housing mean to you in terms of neighborhood, nearby public spaces, food, safety, transportation, and space in the apartment?
   4. Have you ever been worried about not being able to afford the rent?
      1. If so, how did you navigate that experience?
   5. Have you noticed gentrification in your neighborhood?
      1. If so, what are the impacts?
   6. Is there significant homelessness in your neighborhood?
      1. If so, what do you see as the cause?
      2. What do we do to fix the crisis?
4. BLM Protest – YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
   1. Have you ever been involved in activism or politics of any kind?
   2. How do you feel about the BLM protests?
      1. How do you think the BLM protests impacted your community?
      2. Why do you think these anti-racist protests were so strong in NYC?
      3. Why do you think protesting Black Americans and their non-black allies are angry about conditions in the United States?
   3. Do you have any stories you are willing to share about encounters you had with racism?
      1. Are more stories among friends and family members being shared about racism and the police since the protests started?
      2. Have you learned about an experience of someone close to you in relation to the protests or systemic racism?
   4. How have protests during the pandemic shifted the way you think about race in America?
      1. How about the way race/racism and policing is covered in the media?
   5. Do you think social media helped BLM gain traction?
      1. How do you think it’s had a positive and/or negative impact on the movement?
   6. Do you think any changes should be made with the way the NYPD operates given the events of the last three years?
      1. Have you witnessed any changes in the past few years?
   7. Were you active in the protests at all over the last three years?
      * 1. If So...
           1. How so?
           2. Why did you decide to get involved?
           3. Do you believe your actions made a change?
        2. Are there any memorable experiences from your activism that you’re willing to share?
      1. Were you anxious about the risk of spreading COVID while attending protests?
5. COVID-19 -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
   1. How has your day-to-day changed since the start of COVID?
   2. How did it impact your personal relationships?
   3. How has it impacted financial stability or has there been no change?
      1. Did you struggle to find employment during the pandemic? If so, what was that like?
      2. Were you considered “essential” during the height of the pandemic? If so, how did that impact you and your family?
   4. If you were forced to learn online, how did that impact you educationally?
      1. Socially?
   5. How has COVID-19 impacted your health and the health of your family?
   6. What, if any, were the benefits to your life from a year in quarantine?
      1. Is there anything you learned about yourself or your family?
   7. How has your life changed personally since COVID-19?
      1. Are there any new hobbies you’ve taken up?
      2. Old hobbies you’ve lost interest in?
   8. How do you feel about people returning to “normal” despite the persistence of the disease?
      1. Do you have any fears about COVID coming back?
6. Finishing Up
   1. How did you cope with the trauma of the last few years?
   2. Do you plan to spend your whole life in NYC? Why or why not?
   3. Is there anything I should have asked, or anything you’d like to add?
   4. Are you still comfortable making this oral history public?