Guiding Questions for Oral History Interview

• What country are you originally from?
• Why did you leave this country?
• When did you leave? How old were at that time?
  * What did you do in your country before you moved here?
• What were the conditions in the country when you left?
• How did you prepare for your trip here?
• Who came with you when you emigrated? Who did you leave behind? What did you leave behind?

• How did you get here? Did you stay somewhere else before arriving here?
• Why did you choose the United States? Why not some other country?
• Who decided you would come here? Did you want to leave?
• Where did you first settle when you came to this country?
  * Did you know English when you came here? What other languages did you speak?
  * How did others in your home country treat you when they knew you were leaving?
• What changes in lifestyle did you make when you came here?
• What was your first impression of the United States? Has this initial impression changed over time?

• What are some of the differences/similarities you’ve noticed in the cultures here and in your home country?

• What were your hopes for yourself (and/or your family) when you came here? Have you realized these hopes?

• How were you treated when you first arrived in the United States? How are you treated now?

• Were your expectations of America met? Was your idea of America the same as the reality?