

What did people wear?

Oral History Project

Goal: To learn what people used to wear and how they express themselves through clothing.

Process: Before handing them the photographs, explain that you are trying to learn about what people used to wear, why they wore it, and how that might have changed over time. The interview is going to include a mix of asking questions and looking at images. Hand the interviewee photos showing people wearing many outfits from the last 60 years. Ask them to sort the images into three piles: outfits they relate to themselves, outfits that remind them of someone else, and ones they don't connect to. Say that we will start by looking at the ones they related to themselves.

You could also ask them to put the outfits they related to in chronological order and talk about how what they would have worn has changed over time. Start at the earliest image and work your way to more recent images.

Remember these questions are just suggestions. It is likely you will not ask them in order and you might not ask them at all. Follow the flow of the conversation and ask related questions. If you get stuck or nervous the questions are there to help you.



What did People Wear Oral History Project

Interviewer: _____

Date: _____

Interviewee: _____

Location: _____

Questions/Topics

Research Notes

1. What made you connect to the outfits in this image?
 - a. If they wore something similar:
 - i. Where would you have worn it? (can ask more about where they wore it – like if they say they wore it on a night out. Ask about where they would go on a night out)
 - ii. What would you wear to a similar place now? – If different, why?
 - iii. How did you feel wearing it?
 - iv. What did this outfit say about you?
2. How have the outfits you have worn changed over time? Why?
3. Who does this outfit remind you of?
 - a. Why do you associate this outfit with that person?
 - b. Can you tell me more about them?
 - c. Repeat as needed for images.
4. Are there any outfits or styles missing from these images
 - a. Tell me about them?
 - b. Where would you have worn them?
 - c. Who would you be with when you wore them?

- No cell phones or computers until the 1980s
- Indiana schools were segregated until 1954, but the process of desegregation began in 1949.

Images Used



Image: 1972-12-3080, 1965, Seattle, WA

Description: A woman and man (Flossie George and her nephew) stand outside a mobile home with a sign reading "Capella" on it.



Image: 1986-12-0669, 1957, Durham, NH

Description: Two women, two children, and a baby pose for an image outside a house. The young boy holds a cat and there is a dog in the background.



Image: 1986-12-0681

Description: A woman sits with a toddler on her lap in a living room.



Image: 1986-12-0969, 1959

Description: Three women and two men, ranging in age, stand in front of a blooming hedge.



Image: 1986-12-1108, 1957-1964

Description: Six men and one woman gather around an easel and painting set up outside.



Image: 1986-12-2339

Description: A family including three young girls, a pre-teen boy, teenage girl, two women and a man gather for a picture by the Christmas tree.



Image: 1994-02-0014, Bloomington, IN

Description: A man, woman, young girl, and young boy (the Drake family) stand in front of their car.



Image: 1994-02-0062, 1982, Bloomington, IN

Description: Two women (Helen Drake and Georgia Blond) sit in recliners in a living room.



Image: Wahl 2.315

Description: Two women with two young children stand outside.



Image: Wahl 2.468

Description: A man and two women sit on a beach with thier feet in the sand.



Image: Wahl 2.539

Description: A man, woman, and three children pose outside a house.



Image: Wahl 2.542

Description: A man, woman, and two young girls rest on a raised, brick flower bed.



Image: Wahl 2.363

Description: A group of four women, one man, and five children stand on an airplane runway with the beach in the background.



Image: Wahl 2.376

Description: Men in uniforms and work outfits talking in front of a covered truck.



Image: Wahl 2.544

Description: Two men load hay into a truck.



Image: 1986-12-0697

Description: A man in a suit with two women on either side of him stand underneath palm trees with a beach in the background.



Image: 1986-12-0925

Description: Three women inside a room. One is helping another apply lipstick.



Image: 1986-12-0960

Description: A group of three men and two men stand talking in front of a charter bus.



Image: 1986-12-0940

Description: A woman in a wedding dress and veil poses for a picture.



Image: 1972-12-3128, 1956, Indiana, USA

Description: A young woman (Dian Jaramello) in a fancy dress sits on a couch.