

## Critique

For her final project, Krystle Yu conducted two interviews sessions with a member of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC). During each session, Krystle inquired into the life experiences of her interviewee in order to gain a better understanding of the interviewee's perspective and aimed to play a role in preserving the stories of the Japanese American population. Though nervous at first, Krystle began to gain confidence the further she went into the interview. Throughout the interviews it was interesting to see how Krystle could relate to the interviewee in part as they both grew up around Los Angeles. The interviewer also appears to have a good emotional connection with the interviewee. Though the interview itself covers some very serious events in the interviewee's life, both participants were still able to find humor in the small things and laugh. That said, there are some technical skills that I believe Krystle can improve upon before her next interview.

One area that needs improvement is Krystle's ability to remain unbiased when confronted with topics that are important to her. I feel that there were times where Krystle would ask leading questions—questions that lead the interviewee to reply a certain way. This is especially evident in questions in regards to racism and sexism. It is clear from the transcript that Krystle entered the interview with certain perceptions of the experiences of Japanese Americans and women in history. As an interviewer, it is important to leave bias at the door of the interview room as personal biases can affect the outcome of the interview. Krystle needs to be more vigilant of this in the future. Furthermore, Krystle

needs to put an equal amount of work into both interviews. Of the two interviews, I think Krystle's first interview was more successful. For one thing, the goal of the second interview was to create a new list of questions after reviewing the first interview. This was to give Krystle a chance to follow up on any loose ends and perhaps cover topics she felt she had not adequately addressed during the first interview. She did not take full advantage of this chance. From the contents of the second interview, it becomes clear that Krystle did not review the first interview well enough as there are a few times where she brings up questions that were already addressed. An example of this is when, in the second interview, Krystle asked the interviewee about her opinion on the fact that Italian-Americans and German-Americans were not interned while Japanese Americans were, a subject that the interviewee already spoke about at the end of the first interview. Instances such as these took away from the time that could have been devoted to addressing new questions and subjects. Lastly, Krystle should work to restructure her questions so that they have an open-ended answer. Throughout both interviews Krystle asks many yes/no questions such as "Was the camp itself big?" As she stated herself, it is the job of the interviewer to prompt the interviewee, and I can't help but feel that had she asked less yes/no questions, we would have been able to hear longer responses from the interviewee.

For her first time conducting an interview, Krystle shows promise. That said, I believe working on the skills addressed above would increase her abilities as an interviewer as she continues working with the Keepers of the Flame Project at the ESGVJCC.

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>></a><br />This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

href="<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>">Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License</a>.