**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 and your family ended up in New York City.
2. Urban Life -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
   1. How do you get around in the City?
      1. Would you please describe 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?
      2. Do you have any interesting, unusual or wild stories from being on the public transportation system in NYC? Tell me.
   2. Do you feel safe in your community?
      1. What would--or does--make your community safe?
      2. Do you feel safe in NYC more generally?
      3. How does law enforcement fit into your vision of safety in NYC?
   3. What’s it like living in a city that has people from all over the world?
      1. How have you benefited from NYC’s diversity?
   4. Would you consider NYC generally, and your neighborhood specifically to be racially segregated – meaning not diverse?
      1. Why or why not?
   5. What have been your experiences with the NYC public education system, as a student, parent, and/or an observer?
      1. Have you experienced segregation—either all one ethnic group or having an ethnic group missing—in the school system?
      2. If so, what do you think are the consequences of that segregation?
   6. What are some personality traits of New Yorkers?
      1. If you do, how do you code switch (alter your persona in different spaces) to survive and thrive in the City?
3. Housing -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
   1. How well do you know your neighbors and the people in your community?
      1. What public support systems have you experienced in your community?
         1. Are there others you know about, that aren’t available to your community?
   2. What does good housing mean to you in terms of...
      1. Neighborhood
      2. Space in the apartment
      3. Public spaces in area
      4. Food in area
      5. Safety
      6. Transportation
      7. Neighborhood resources affirming my identity
   3. Have you ever been worried about not being able to afford the rent?
      1. If so, can you explain that experience?
   4. What have been the impacts of gentrification and community dislocation on your neighborhood?
   5. How do you feel about the homelessness crisis in NYC?
      1. What do you see as the cause?
      2. What should society and the government do to curb the crisis?
4. BLM Protest – YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
   1. How do you feel about the BLM protests?
      1. Explain to me why you think these anti-racist protests erupted particularly strongly in NYC?
      2. What do you think makes protesting Black Americans and their non-black allies angry about conditions in the United States?
   2. Do you have any stories you are willing to share about encounters you have had with racism?
      1. How about negative encounters with the police?
      2. Have you learned about an experience of someone close to you that you didn’t know before since the protests erupted?
   3. How has your opinion of the NYPD changed overtime?
   4. How about the way race/racism and policing is covered in the media?
   5. Do you think any changes should be made with the way the NYPD operates given the events of the last three years?
      1. If so, what kind of changes?
      2. Have you witnessed any changes in the past few years?
   6. Were you active in the protests at all in a digital or in person way over the last three years?
      * 1. If So...
           1. How so?
           2. Why did you decide to get involved?
        2. Are there any memorable experiences from your activism that you’re willing to share?
5. COVID-19 -- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANWSER ANY QUESTION THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE
   1. How has your day-to-day been different since the start of COVID?
   2. How has your life changed financially since COVID-19?
      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?
   3. 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?
   4. How have your relationships changed with your…
      1. Friends?
      2. Neighbors?
      3. Family/Roommates?
   5. If you were forced to learn online, how did that impact you educationally?
      1. Socially?
   6. How has COVID-19 impacted your health and the health of your family?
   7. 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?
   8. How do you feel about people returning to “normal” despite the persistence of the diseases?
6. Finishing Up
   1. Do you plan to spend your whole life in NYC? Why or why not?
   2. Is there anything I should have asked, or anything you’d like to add?
   3. Are you still comfortable making this oral history public?