



Tool Eleven:

Truth & Reconciliation Oral History Project

DIFFICULTY: ●●●●○

FOR: ORGANIZATIONS

The HBCU Truth & Reconciliation Oral History Project, sponsored by several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other educational institutions, conducts video interviews with individuals of African American and Latino/a origin to document their personal stories of racial discrimination. This initiative aims to foster healing, reconciliation, and social change by providing a platform for people to share their experiences and be heard. These video interviews serve as a powerful tool for connecting generations, promoting understanding, and advancing equity.

BASICS:

When: Can be organized for students during a semester, or as part of community projects.

Where: Virtual via Zoom or similar applications.

Objective: The primary objective of the Truth & Reconciliation Oral History Project's video interviews is to create a platform for individuals of color to share personal stories of racial discrimination and its impact. By documenting these narratives, the project seeks to

promote healing on a personal level and reconciliation on a national scale. Additionally, the recorded interviews inform educational policy changes and facilitate spiritual growth within communities. This grassroots effort is driven by the belief that sharing these stories and being heard can activate healing and compassion within society.

STEPS:

1. Interview Preparation:

Students are trained to conduct interviews with individuals who have experienced racial discrimination. These interviews are designed to provide a safe and empathetic space for storytellers.

2. Recording Sessions:

Video interviews are conducted, allowing storytellers to share their personal experiences, emotions, and insights related to racial discrimination.

3. Documentation:

The recorded interviews are meticulously documented, transcribed, and archived by participating HBCUs and universities. This documentation is essential for preserving the stories for posterity.



4. Academic Research:

The project's themes and narratives are used for academic thought, research, and praxis related to racial discrimination and reconciliation. This research informs educational policy and contributes to grassroots organizing efforts.

5. Community Sharing:

The stories are shared within communities, creating an opportunity for validation and healing. The act of sharing and documentation serves as "forensic" evidence for storytellers in the face of communal disbelief.

6. Engaging the Church:

The stories are employed to engage the Church and its moral authority to address racial equity and relationship building. The Church is encouraged to play a leading role in addressing these issues.

Reasons why this tool is powerful:

The HBCU Truth & Reconciliation Oral History Project's video interviews are powerful tools for bridging generational gaps and fostering understanding. By providing a platform for individuals to share their stories, this initiative humanizes experiences, validates feelings, and promotes healing. The act of being heard and the documentation of these narratives serve as a form of evidence, lending credibility to the storytellers and their experiences. Moreover, these stories engage the Church and its moral authority in addressing racial equity and societal change, appealing to the heart of humanity when facts and figures fall short.

This initiative is a testament to the power of storytelling in creating connections and advancing social change. It allows generations to come together, learn from each other, and work towards a more equitable and compassionate society.

Source: HBCU Truth & Reconciliation Oral History Project

