

Student Handout

Name: _____

The Rubbish Reporter

General Assignment: Ask your interviewee to pick a time in his/her past that is easy to recall in detail. Ask the interviewee to remember what he/she considered trash at that time (what was thrown out), how that trash was disposed of, where it was disposed of, and how all of these characteristics compare with today's ideas about trash and methods for handling trash.

Rubbish Reporter's name: _____

Interviewee's name: _____

What time period(s) does your interview cover? _____

What geographical location? _____



Interview Questions

1. What time period are you going to talk about? How old were you then? What was your occupation (if you were old enough)?

2. What were the most important political and social events during the time period you are remembering?

3. What did you consider trash when you were younger? What kinds of things did you throw out?

4. How was your trash handled? Was it picked up, sent to a landfill, burned? Who provided this service?

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Interview Questions (continued)

5. Did you reuse or repair items? What kinds of items did you reuse? Did you recycle? What did you recycle? What were recyclables made into or used for?

7. What were many of your products (such as toys, food containers, or appliances) made of during this time period? Did you have a lot of plastic products? Glass? Metal? How were they packaged?

6. Name some products that you use today that were not available to you then.

8. What was your attitude toward trash then? Has it changed now?

9. Do you think we are more wasteful as a society today?

Rubbish Reporter: Can you think of any more questions to ask?