

Capturing Lives in Scotland's Communities

Week 4: Activities

This week's activities will count towards **Parts A and B** of the **Arts Award Explore**. Fill this out before your discussion session this week if you can, but don't worry too much if you can't. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask your mentor on Microsoft Teams.

This week's activities fall into two parts. For Part 1, we are asking you to create an oral history and for Part 2, we are asking you to research an arts organisation. Don't worry if you don't get all this done this week, remember you will have two weeks after the project finishes (until 7th August) to complete everything.

PART 1: Create an Oral History

Firstly, watch the ‘Oral History’ and ‘Week 4: Activities’ video on our webpage. Listen to some of the examples of oral histories that we have there and follow the instructions in the ‘Week 4: Activities’ video to record your own oral history interview.

1. Did you learn something new about the person you were interviewing that you didn't know before?
 2. What do you think was the most interesting thing that you talked about during the interview?
 3. Do you think other people in the future will find the interview interesting? Why or why not?
 4. Did you enjoy doing this activity?

Part 2: Research an Arts Organisation

For Part B of the Arts Award, you have to research an arts organisation. We've given you some links you could explore about the different arts organisations involved in this project but you can choose any arts organisation that you are interested in. If you know someone who works for an arts organisation you could combine the oral history activity with this one by interviewing them about their job and the place that they work!

1. Which arts organisation(s) have you explored?
 2. How did you find out about this arts organisation? Include your research as well as your summary of what you found out. (For example, did you use the internet, visit this arts organisation, read one of their programmes etc)
 3. What sort of arts activities does this arts organisation do?
 4. What artists or arts professionals work at this arts organisation (for example dancers, musicians, curators, writers, designers?)

Discussion Group Questions: Week 3

Here are some of the topics we might cover in this week's discussion group sessions. If you've got time before hand, have a think to what your answer to some of these questions might be:

- Had you ever thought about creating an oral history with your elders before this week's activity? Do you think they have important stories to tell that you might not find in the archive or mainstream history books?
- Creating an oral history is a well-prepared and standardised process, even when you are interviewing your own family. For example, Jane, one of our student mentors, says 'my maternal grandmother often spoke about how her father was a little baby when he was taken from Africa and arrived to Cuba on Middle Passage. However, knowing about this family history is not the same as creating an oral history'. What do you think the key differences are between chatting to a family member and creating an oral history with them?
- What do you think is the difference between oral history, written histories (i.e. books) and visual histories (i.e. photographs and visual artworks)? Is one easier to create than the others? Or can be accessed more easily than the others?
- Do you think we can consider the creation of oral histories to be an art form? Why or why not?