1. Overview of interviews  
   a. Why do them  
   b. Secondary goal is to begin a longer-term project of collecting oral histories for the use of future students as well as the general public  
   c. What they will consist of – contact farmers, go to farm, walk around property, find a quiet place to sit down and record an interview  
2. Farmers are really interesting to talk to because they inhabit almost a hidden world  
3. Play samples of previous interviews (Fall 2009)  
   a. Matt and John. Things to note:  
      i. Radio playing in background  
      ii. First answer very short  
      iii. Then it turns conversational – let him speak about history (that’s the most interesting thing!)  
   b. Meghan and Andy  
      i. A little stumbling at first  
4. Let’s discuss basic interviewing do’s and don’t’s (see PPT)  
5. Let’s focus in on what questions you might ask.  
   a. Students get theirs out, share with neighbor  
   b. Show master list on screen – scroll through  
   c. I go through (model) good ones, tricky ones  
6. Let’s focus in on probably the most important aspect – making the process a conversation and not a formal, stiff interview.  
   a. The set of questions is just a guide. Return to it from time to time, but you should be looking the person in the eyes and just chatting with them.  
   b. Have a student or two practice on me, playing the role of the stiff farmer  
   c. What do you do when you get very short answers?  
      i. “Can you elaborate?”  
      ii. “Hmm, that’s interesting, it reminds me of…..”  
7. Possible metadata to collect (Jessica)