

Cue Card for FACILITATOR

Introductory Statement. The facilitator must read this as the opening statement in the audio or video recording:

This oral history is being conducted for the “DOVE Oral History Program.”
Today’s date is _____ (month date, year).
We are at _____ (location, city, state).
My name is _____, and I am serving as facilitator.

Background Questions

1. Please tell me your name.
2. Was this your name as a child? If not, what was your name when you were a child?
3. Where do you live now?
4. Where did you live during the years of Virginia’s desegregation?
5. Which Virginia schools did you attend? (*For teachers or staff*, In which Virginia schools did you teach?)
6. What year did you graduate from high school? (*For teachers*, During which years did you teach in each school?)

Telling the story: What’s YOUR story about school desegregation?

1. What is your experience with segregation or desegregation of Virginia schools?
2. What event or events do you remember most vividly?
3. How did the school situation affect you, your family, and your friends?
4. Did you attend a segregated school? If so, what did you like about that situation? What did you dislike?
5. Did you attend an integrated (or desegregated) school? If so, what did you like about that situation? What did you dislike?

6. Were you present for the moment that the schools became desegregated? Please tell me a little about what that process was like for you. What events or feelings stood out for you?
7. Tell us about the atmosphere at the school(s) you attended or in which you taught. How would you describe the faculty? How would you describe the student body? Who in particular stood out?
8. Were you politically active during this period? How did you speak up, protest, or fight against racism with regard to education?
9. Who are some other leaders in your community who were vocal in terms of the school situation?
10. What do you know about how things are today in that school or school district? What improvements have you seen? What has changed over time?
11. What else would you like to say about your experience with school desegregation?

Closing the Interview

Thank you, Mr./Mrs. _____ for taking the time to speak with us today.

[Turn off recording devices. Express your personal gratitude for the interview. Remind the storyteller that you will send the interview to Old Dominion University so it can be included in the online DOVE Oral History Collection. Let them know how valuable this new material will be in enhancing the documented history of school desegregation, and that their interview will be available for students, scholars, and others. Offer to let the storyteller know when the interview is posted so they can listen to it and share it with friends and family.]