

**Final Report – Professional Development Grant
Oral History Project for SOC 3173 (Social Gerontology) – Summer I 2007**

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RESTATEMENT OF PROBLEM

During the Summer I session at Arkansas Tech University, I taught SOC 3173 (Social Gerontology). I wanted my students to participate in an “oral history” project. I wanted to provide them with voice recorders for interviews and later compile the interviews for the creation of a manuscript that would be donated to local libraries.

REVIEW OF THE WORK / PROCEDURE

The project involved students locating someone who is elderly (65 years of age or older) who has lived in Pope County, Arkansas most of their lives. They asked the individual if they would like to participate in the project. After signing the appropriate consent documents, students conducted interviews lasting up to one hour. Students needed voice records for the interviews to ease the transcription process carried out later. Students summarized the interviews in 5 to 10 pages. I compiled those individual papers into a manuscript suitable for publication.

OUTCOMES

This grant allowed me to purchase voice recorders, which students used during the interview process. It also made funds available, which I used to pay a company currently in process of publishing the compiled interviews.

CONCLUSIONS

This grant allowed me to compile a manuscript of oral histories of people from Pope County. Without the voice recorders, which the grant funded, I do not feel students would have done as good of a job collecting data. Moreover, without funding to pay for the processing of the manuscript, I do not feel the project would have been possible. If I continue to teach Social Gerontology, I plan to apply for a grant similar to this one in order to fund another oral history compilation for local libraries.

**Note: A copy of the manuscript, *Voices of Pope County: Gerontological Perceptions of the Past and Present*, is attached. If any additional information is needed regarding the use of this grant, please do not hesitate to ask me for it.*