

## ASSIGNMENT 3 (Oral History)

### The Art of Indexing: Making History Accessible

In this assignment, students will engage in the art and technique of indexing oral history interviews to make these rich sources more accessible to future researchers, educators, and general audiences. Each student will choose a short segment from one of the oral testimonies, analyzing it carefully to create an index that highlights key themes, emotions, names, and historical events. Through this process, students will explore the essential, yet often unseen, work of turning oral histories into organized, accessible resources. This exercise also encourages students to reflect on the interpretive decisions involved in indexing, such as which details to emphasize or de-emphasize, and how these choices shape future interpretations.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a 5 to 10-minute segment from one of the oral testimonies provided.
2. Develop a bilingual (English and Yiddish) or multilingual index for the selected segment.  
This index should include:
  - Key Themes (e.g., resilience, migration, memory, community).
  - Names and Places (e.g., individuals mentioned, cities, countries, landmarks).
  - Emotions (e.g., nostalgia, sorrow, anger, pride) that highlight the speaker's experience.
  - Historical Events (e.g., specific wars, dates, periods).
3. Pay attention to different possible spellings or transliterations (e.g., Vilnius, Vilne, Vilna) which are crucial for ensuring the index can be searched accurately.
4. Finally, write a brief reflection (approximately 200 words) on your experience indexing the chosen oral history segment. In your reflection, address the responsibility of deciding which elements to highlight. Consider the potential impact of your choices in shaping how others understand the testimony and its significance.