English 102: Inquiry into the South

Please login to your computers and have your readings handy.
What is field research?
What are the benefits field research provides?
What kind of information do you want to collect in this project?

Write out the purpose of your research (2-3) sentences and your research question.
Why is field research necessary for your project?

- What kind of information can interviews provide?
- How can you construct your protocol to maximize that information?
How are interviews (field research) going to help you with your research on _______ issue? What insights does field research provide you can’t get elsewhere? How are you planning to advance the academic conversation on your issue via field research?
Participants

Decisions about who you interview should be based on the purpose of your research.

You may consider interviewing:

- People of authority on the issue
- Laypeople affected by the issue
- People who are unaffected by the issue but have conceptions about it
What is the optimal subset of people to interview in order for your field research to really be beneficial to your project on ________ issue?

Why are these participants optimal? How will your interview with them add something to the academic research on this issue?

What qualities do these people need to include or exclude and what does each matter to your research?
Conducting the interviews

- Decide what format you want to conduct your interview in. Examples can be found on pp. 242-243.

- How much information are you going to provide to your participants in advance?

- How will you record the interview?
Which format will you conduct your interview in? Why is that format the best for optimizing the benefits of field research? Why is that format the best for your research project?

How much about the project will you share with your participants in advance? Will you show them your interview questions? Why or why not?

How will you record your interview? Why is this type of recording your best choice?
Interview questions

- Interview questions should be written in a way to avoid “yes” and “no” answers. Instead, you want to get your participants explaining the thought, feeling, or act.

- Interview questions should avoid leading the participant towards any answer. The questions should be written in a way that makes the participant feel like the authoritative figure on the issue.
Student Sample Interview Questions
Writing:

- Draft interview questions.
Questions over Chapter 9 or the Protocol Assignment?
Next Class:
Bring in a completed draft of your protocol for peer review.
Homework

Homework: Work on your interview protocol. Consider bring it to office hours to review.