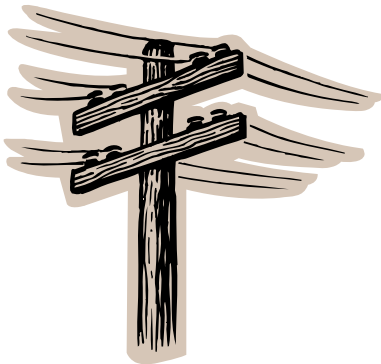


**Background about conducting an oral history interview: general tips for interviewing:** (for a brief synopsis of doing interviews, see <http://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/Tools/sw-8.htm> )

1. The best interview will have the *narrator doing virtually all of the talking*.
2. Usually, it is best to proceed in *chronological order* from the earliest reminiscences to the most recent.
3. Generally, *move from concrete to the abstract*. Facts first, then evaluation. In other words, record factual reminiscences of the person's experiences before recording what the narrator thought about it all. Begin by learning about the person's relation to the event before obtaining their views on it.
4. Only ask questions about topics that the person is apt to have *experienced personally*.
5. Ask *open-ended questions* -- broad questions which elicit a lengthy response -- not questions that can be answered in a word. Generally, avoid direct, specific questions, except to establish a fact or to clarify a statement.
6. Ask one question at a time.
7. *Listen creatively*, thinking of where the information can lead you. Don't be superficial.
8. *Funnel*: start with very broad questions first and when starting a new section

**Teacher's notes to explain funneling:**



Draw a telephone line on the board, and draw an ice cream cone. A strong, useful oral history interview goes deep like an ice cream cone, rather than skimming across the surface like telephone wires. An effective interview knows how to be silent and listen, and knows how to ask questions that will probe and uncover details that the narrator has only alluded to until that point in the interview

