

Grand Valley State University Human Research Review Committee	
<i>G-2: HRRC Guidance on research involving oral history projects</i>	
Issued: February 14, 2012	Office of Research Compliance and Integrity

Research activities including journalistic interviews, oral histories, biographical profiles, and similar activities normally do not fall within the jurisdiction of the HRRC. In these cases, the individuals being interviewed understand that they are being quoted, and have every expectation that their views will be made known for educational purposes. The interviewees should be advised of their right to remain anonymous, to have their remarks printed without attribution, or kept 'off the record'. If the interviewee is directly quoted, he or she should be allowed to read or hear the quotations attributed to him or her. The interviewee also should be advised of any publication plans for the project.

Biography or oral history research involving a living individual is not generalizable beyond that individual. Therefore, it does not meet the definition of research in the federal regulations at 45 CFR 46.102 and does not require HRRC review and approval.