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Sample Oral History Video Introduction Discussion Questions

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1. How is each video using text(s) differently to set up the oral history?
2. What overall impact does each the introductions have on you as a viewer? Think about this in terms of emotion, engagement, identification, and so on?
3. When we discussed *When the Levees Broke* we talked about the role that Spike Lee's own biases play in the film. We know that oral histories are supposed to be neutral representations of events as remembered and told by the narrator; this is what separates them from documentary. For each of the introductions, think about whether you see biases coming through. If you identify biases, what are they? Are they significant enough that they the video should have been edited? Where do we draw the line between acceptable and unacceptable biases?
4. Overall, which is the most effective introduction? Why?
5. Think about your own oral history compositions. Considering what your group has discussed, how might you approach your introductions?