Making History Reflective Questions

Primary Source Data Collection Questions for students:

- What was the most surprising piece of information your interviews generated? Why was it surprising?
- What types of interview questions led to relevant, interesting answers? What types of interview questions were less effective?
- Was it hard to keep interview subjects on the topic? What strategies worked to pull the person back to the focus of the interview? What might have made the interview more productive?
- What other sources might you use to corroborate and complement what was shared by your interviewee? For example, how could a class picture be used to corroborate stories shared about racial makeup in the classroom or how could school board meeting minutes be used in conjunction with a newspaper clipping?

Then and Now Reflective Questions for Students:

- Based on your interviews and those you heard about school desegregation in our community, what changes have occurred in the lives of everyday students over the last 60 years? How significant do you think these changes are?
- Do your oral history interviews show areas of everyday life that have changed little over the last 100 years? Why do you think this is true?
- Through the interviews, what information did you gather about causes of change in everyday student life? For example, were changes in race relations have to do with socio-economic status, residential segregation, ideas about the government’s role in education, and schoolchildren’s role in transforming society?