

Name: _____

Date: _____

Jazz Oral Histories As Primary Sources

Student Worksheet

Answer the following questions, citing specific evidence from the audio clips and/or transcripts on SmithsonianJazz.org (short URL is <http://bit.ly/JAZZoh>).

How does listening to the audio compare to reading the transcript? Does the rhythm or emotion of the person's voice offer any information?

How might this story sound if it was told by someone else? Is there another perspective from which this story could be told, and if so, how do you imagine it might be different?

As Toshiko Akiyoshi states, "Jazz is a social art." What interpersonal relationships are a part of this story?



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How does this person's unique story fit into the broader history of America? Does it contrast with or support your previous knowledge of events, places, or ideas in American history?

Do you get the impression that this person's experience was common or "normal" for his/her place in history? What makes you think that? What parts might have been uncommon?

What new questions do you have after listening to this oral history? How might you find the answers to those questions?
