Long Beach Origin Story Interview Assignment

Directions:
1. Interview an older family member or community member by asking them about how they came to be a part of the Long Beach community/what their origin story is. There are questions that you can ask below, but by no means are required to ask; they’re provided as a guide.
2. After your interview, write a 3+ sentence (minimum) reflection on what you learned and how this connects to how you became a part of the Long Beach community/what your origin story is.

Interview steps

Before the interview:
● Decide whom to interview
● Keep questions short and avoid any that can be answered with a “yes” or “no.”

During the interview:
● Ask your questions and encourage the interviewee without interrupting
● Take notes and record if you can
● When the interview is over, review your questions to ensure that all questions have been asked and answered
● Thank them for their time

After-Interview Reflection:
In at least 3 sentences (minimum) written summary, reflect on how this source/interview helps you understand your origin story and/or your place in Long Beach history. Use the following questions to drive your post-interview reflection.

● What did you learn about your interviewee or your family that you did not know before? What did you learn about the historical events they experienced?
● In what ways does their origin story relate to yours?
● How does Born on the Water and your interview help you understand Long Beach’s history and your origin story?

Example Questions:
● Describe the neighborhood or community you grew up in. How has it changed?
● Do you have stories about how your/our family came to Long Beach? What are they?
● How has the Long Beach community changed since when you/we first arrived?
● What does it mean to you to be a Long Beacher, and how do you fit into this larger community?
● What historic events (marches, protests, performances, etc.) have you experienced in Long Beach?
● Have you experienced or observed prejudice or racism during your life?
● What would you say are the greatest challenges you’ve faced in your life?
● What is your favorite Long Beach memory?