

Reflective Essay:

Over the summer, I was able to finally complete my project of 4 years and complete the biography I was writing of my 4 grandparents. It took a lot of interviewing, traveling, research, and above all questions and conversations. I used the library resources to help me plan out different ways I could go about interviewing and compiling data and information while assessing all the other resources and documents I had.

My grandparents grew up in a time of religious and political conflict so much of my research involved understanding and communicating those conflicts and pressures to an audience that is unfamiliar and being able to take those factors into account when phrasing my questions and concerns. I've read many books, one of which is called "Facilitation" which helped me ask the right questions and foster more deep meaningful dialogue which has really helped my research. I used OWL Purdue to help me cite much of my information and many of the tips and procedures from books like of "the art of interviewing" and the "art of asking."

I also researched past anecdotes of people and places that were also effected by the religious and political conflicts of India and Pakistan to see if there were trends and similar stories and how they have impacted the lives of the citizens in that area and the similar impacts that these stories have had on the individuals living through it. I had to truly engross myself in the history, conflicts and lives of the country and the people in order to get a holistic understanding of my subjects.

The resources, books, tools, and people that the library has offered me have enabled me to finally complete my project of four years and I am truly grateful for

that! My book is a compilation of memoirs, history, anecdotes, and life lessons with a good background of the conflicts, religions, actions and attitudes of the people and governments at that time.