Discussion Questions

Women and the Manhattan Project

1. When was the person you selected born and where were they from?

2. Did the person you selected go to college? If so, where, and what did they study?

3. Why did the person you selected decide to start working on (what was eventually revealed to be) the Manhattan Project? Was it money, professional opportunity, family, etc.?

4. Describe the work or research of the person you selected. What did they do during their time on the Manhattan Project?

5. The women of the Manhattan Project faced many challenges, both at work and at home.
   a. What was the most difficult aspect of life during the Manhattan Project for the person you selected?
   b. What was the most surprising thing they shared about their life during this time?

6. Did the person you selected face discrimination in the workspace or elsewhere? Were they the only woman working at their type of job?

7. What was life like outside of work at the development sites? What was the living situation of the person you selected? What kinds of recreation did they take part in?

8. Secrecy was of the upmost importance during the Manhattan Project. Employees were given just enough information to fulfill their responsibilities, but they were left in the dark as to the purpose of the Project and their contributions to it.
   a. How much did the person you researched know about what was being developed?
   b. How was secrecy and security enforced at their station?
   c. When did they find out it was an atomic bomb?

9. How did the person you selected react to the news of the bombing of Hiroshima? Do you agree with them? Why or why not?

10. How would you rate the oral history interview overall? Are there additional questions you feel were not asked or clarified? What are they?