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Data Collection

For my data collection, I will be conducting interviews and sharing my personal testimony. Previous classes have taught me different search strategies, and personal interviewing is my favorite. I feel you get a more genuine connection with the people you speak to. Creating that safe space, letting people know their voices are being heard. Before I started collecting data, I asked questions to use during an interview with one of my peers. Having more open-ended questions than closed ones to gather more information from the respondent. I would look at questions that surround the topic and create space for good conversations. The interview is what I am including for the data assignment.

Collecting this data, I sat down with my friend and asked 5 different questions about flooding in East Saint Louis. Things like, how has flooding personally affected you, and what advice would you recommend to others? Questions like this provided me with the necessary data from a native in the community. As mentioned before, interviews give the opportunity to have raw information and not be manipulated by the media. The interview was conducted over a phone call, and we had a very productive 40-minute conversation. I chose this topic because flooding is something the East Saint Louis community struggles with. I was only available to interview one person because everyone else was busy. I selected him because I knew he faced similar challenges I had gone through. Flooding has made an impact on a lot of people in the community, and it hasn't been pleasant. If there were another chance for an interview, I would have talked to more people about flooding and the problems they have faced.

Data collection has been the goal this semester. I learned how to conduct interviews and create a space where questions can flow. Asking open-ended questions rather than using yes and no's to further give me data. Being a native from these area's I learned so many other people struggle with similar things I do. Ideals and ways of life, I thought, because of how bad my

situation was. I learned that people have a voice and are ready to use it. Give a man the opportunity to show the world who he is, and he will shine brighter than all. I will acknowledge that none of this is possible without the help of others. The government sees the problems people in the community are facing. While at the same time, they would fuel and put money into things that are not really benefiting anyone but themselves. Flooding isn't just the problem; the overall drainage systems are not coming into play to help out these areas. As mentioned above, water infrastructure and pipes are breaking down. Coming to the point where there isn't a proper way to handle flooding. Circling back into our mission this semester, Cahokia Heights and nearby cities are facing water infrastructure. If we continue to backup and show this data, maybe people will step in and try to make a change.