Worksheet 1: Introduction to the Federal Writers Project Questions

Directions: Use the introduction given by the Federal Writers Project page and answer the 8 questions while scrolling through the introduction.

1. What was the purpose of the Federal Writers Project as part of the WPA?

2. How many people participated in the project?

3. What are some examples of life histories taken by the WPA?

4. Who was the folklore editor of the Writer’s Project?

5. How were the life histories reconstructed, considering this was the time before tape recorders?

6. What did Botkin suggest was the best process of conducting interviews?

7. How was it possible that the workers and interviewees were accepted as equals?

8. What is more important than accuracy when it comes to these life histories? What insight can we gain from the innumerable amount of life histories collected by the Federal Writers Project?