

This is the protocol schedule used for our Chicago case study. Each site mandated a version of this document.

### *Focus Group Interview Protocol*

Please Note: 1) Non-participant protocol will follow the schedule below, excepting question 3 in section IV. 2) Sections I. – III. should take up a small portion of the discussion to accommodate for an extended and in-depth discussion of OBOC and the chosen text, specifically.

## **Intro to our study**

### **Information sheet and release form – audio taping**

### **Demographic sheet**

#### **I. Reading history**

1. Kinds of books that you read?

- Which author/genre?
- How often?
- When?
- Where?

2. How do you find/choose books?

- Listen for “trusted other” Who is it?
- money spent?

#### **II. Reading Contexts**

1. Do you talk about the books you read?

- Why? With whom?
- book clubs?
- Read out loud
- Other readers in the household?

#### **III. Book Related Activities**

1. Which book-centered activities do you take part in?

- Author readings
- Book programming
- Radio/tv/internet?

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#### **IV. OBOC events**

1. Have you heard about OBOC?
  - How?
  - Which events
2. What is your opinion of the events?
3. How did event/s affect your view or understanding of the book?

#### **V. Aims of the program**

1. What do you think OBOC is supposed to achieve?
  - Successful?
2. What should it achieve, in your opinion?

#### **VI. Book choice**

1. Is *Pride & Prejudice* a poor or good choice for OBOC?
  - details?
  - as compared to other years?
  - which was the best choice, why?

#### **VII. Reading response**

1. Do you usually read 'classics'? why/why not?
2. Have you read P&P before?
  - If yes - when?; can you recall what that reading experience was like?
  - If no - what, if anything, did you know about the book before reading it?
3. In your own words, please describe your experience of reading P&P - even if you haven't or couldn't finish it.  
**listen for:** emotions; time it took to read/pace of reading; reading practices

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- What did you think of the book? Was it what you expected?

**prompt** if reader is stuck: choose any words that come to mind when you think about reading P & P

- Can you talk briefly about an aspect of the book that engaged you? / Why didn't this book engage you at all?

**listen for:** relevance to reader's own life; to 21stc; reading & interpretive strategies

4. Did you talk about this book with anyone else?

- What did you talk about?
- Afterwards, did you have any new ideas, thoughts or feelings about P & P?

## EXERCISE

Researcher picks a (fairly memorable) scene from the book in advance or we could use a scene picked by someone in response to the questions above.

5. Do you remember this scene? What do you make of it?

## **VIII. Reading practices**

1. For those of you who have participated in this OBOC or in one of the previous programs, do you book the pick in advance?

2. Is meeting the author important, when he or she is available?

3. Discuss the book with others?

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- at events?

### **VIII. Communities**

1. As outsiders, we would like to know what you think about the city of Chicago? What makes you proud or not to be a member of this community?

2. Which smaller communities do you belong to? (e.g. geographical, familial, religious, leisure activities, etc.)

- Why are they important to you?
- What does it feel like to belong to them?

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### **Demographic sheet**

(distributed to all participating and non-participating focus group participants)

Gender?

- Female     Transgendered  
 Male     None of the above (specify identification if you wish)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prefer not to answer

Your municipality?

Age?

Occupation?

Title?

Education level? (Please circle one)

- No high school
- Some high school
- High school diploma
- Some university/college
- University/college degree
- Some post-graduate
- Post-graduate degree

How many people live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_?

How many are children under age 18 \_\_\_\_\_?

Do you consider yourself (Please circle one)

- lower class
- middle-lower class
- middle class
- upper-middle class
- upper class

Your Name? \_\_\_\_\_