



Interviewers: If you could just start by giving your name and basic kinds of information, like family, education, children, you know, kind of an intro.

Sabrina: Sabrina White. I was born and bred in a small town called Aliquippa, which is in the state of Pennsylvania, which is Beaver County. I'm married. I have three children, 24, 18 and... 24, 21, and 18, two boys and a baby girl. I'm a first time grandmother. He is three months. He's in Oregon; and I have two on the way, because she is pregnant again. And then my daughter is expecting. So, I'm a one-time grandmother, two on the way. I have some college. High school graduate. And what else did you...

Interviewers: Just kind of whatever, you know. Well, actually one thing I was thinking so are...except for Oregon does everyone else in your family live in Pittsburgh?

Sabrina: Nobody in my...

Interviewers: No one does.

Sabrina: I have like cousins, some distant cousins that live in Pittsburgh. But the family that I do have that is close lives in Aliquippa, Beaver County.

Interviewers: OK. So if you would feel comfortable, would you tell us your disability?

Sabrina: Yeah, I have a type of arthritis in both knees. And this knee... I'm ordered to wear a full knee brace and use crutches or canes or walkers. I do use this. And sometimes I wear the knee brace; sometimes I don't, because when I wear it, I can't bend the leg and really, I can't go anywhere. You know, I can't walk. I can't do nothing with those knee braces on. And I injured it walking across the street because both knees are bad. I was just walking across the street trying to catch the light, and I stumbled. Then there was a click in the back of my knee. And I already have real bad type of arthritis already in it. They was already messed up anyway. And it was a click. And then there was a throbbing pain. And then it just swelled up three times its size, and then ever since then, they just...when...it's just really bad. It's really bad and a...

Interviewers: So how long have you had that?

Sabrina: This has been going on for about four or five months. I had the arthritis part for over a year. But the recent added...addition to the problem just happened about four months ago.

Interviewers: How has that changed your life?

Sabrina: When you can't do what you want to do, it is upsetting; because there are times I want to get up and go somewhere and I can't. You know because I can't walk. Because

the pain is that bad that I can't walk. And the knee is...is internal, it is a permanent type of injury and I can't...When you can't do what you want to do, it's frustrating. But it's not like that every day. You know like, I'm here now. I can, you know...There are just days that I can't go, but I...it's not like that every day.

Interviewers: Do you think that almost makes it more frustrating cause some days it's not there?

Sabrina: Yeah. Yeah. Because...well when you get up in age like me. I'll be 49 and a...there's just things that you, you need...whatever you want to do you...I need to get on it because I don't know when the good Lord is going to take me out. I was just in ICU a week ago in cardiac, again. So, whatever you all do, don't smoke. Don't smoke. Because it destroyed my life. But anyway I was just in cardiac again so I don't have much time left. I don't know, you know, what the...when the good Lord is going to take me out. So when I can't do what I want to do, or go where I want to go, yeah, it's frustrating, because of the permanent damage to the knees.

Interviewers: So are you working now?

Sabrina: I was working. I haven't worked for about a little over a year I haven't worked. But I have been working on and off throughout my life since I was seventeen. So, I have a lot of experience in different fields. But the latest field I did was like, um, call center, customer service, telephone raising. I was a community organizer for ACORN. Have you ever heard of ACORN?

Interviewers: Yeah.

Sabrina: I worked for them.

Interviewers: They're still around, aren't they?

Sabrina: Mm hmm. East Liberty.

Interviewers: Do you kind of have any favorite stories when you think about since you said you were in a wide variety of areas of work?

Sabrina: I started from...One of the places I worked?

Interviewers: Yeah. Kind of like a favorite one you seem to carry with you about working, especially now that you're not.

Sabrina: Oh my goodness. There were so many fields. Oh, my goodness. I was a cosmetologist and barber for many years. I was in the health field for many years. I went to culinary arts school. I worked with chefs. OK, I've prepared cuisines. So many

different things I've done. To pick one story that has meaning. I have several things that have wonderful meanings and memories to me. I'm going to pick the last memory that I have. The last job that I had that meant a lot to me was a community organizer for ACORN. When I had to go out into the community and sit with the people, and asked them about their issues and concerns and we directed their issues and concerns. They a...when they...when they gave me the position, I had no experience. You have to get in touch with the political officers that are directly...direct each problem. OK, like if there is a problem with police. There's not enough, you know...you know how they do a watch or whatever, drive, you know. You have to go to the chief of police. You have to set up meetings. So I had no experience and I had not dealt with elected officials. I had meetings. I had seminars at libraries. I dealt with them and I got them talking and talked to all of them. They were surprised what I have done in such a short period of time. What I have accomplished, because we addressed a lot of issues. I only was on...They gave me a...what town did they give me? Sabrina, think, think, think. Oh, my goodness...The Hill District, and I was on it about maybe seven months, I mean seven weeks. I apologize. Seven weeks. And I have to have a minor medical surgery. I always have medical problems for quite some time now; and because of that medical procedure, I had to leave for a few days. And then eventually I never came back and I left the state. But I was on the job several weeks and I have several meetings and we addressed one of the biggest problem was security and violence in the neighborhood. We had got together with some neighbors and we organized a neighborhood watch. We talked to the chief of police and we have organized a safety zone. We contacted members to call. I did all of this...organized all of this myself. The...She was surprised what I got done and how much I accomplished in a short period of time. I was there for someone to have absolutely no experience or had no idea what they are doing. But when you made up your mind that you are going to do something; and when you make up your mind you're going to do it right, you get on it immediately. So, I got on that phone and I called every resource there is to call. Then they gave me who to call. And they gave me who to call. And a...and every...and then you listen. Because there was some type of fair where there was a political official there, and I went to that. I found out about it, and I went to that. And they said, "Well he's over here." This official that's in charge of...I can't remember what particular, what he was in charge of. But it was just hard to get to him. I made it to him. And we shook hands and he invited me to a luncheon. He invited me to a luncheon, where we were supposed to sit down with other officials and discuss. I never made it to the luncheon because of my health problems. But I did accomplish a lot in that short period, and to talk to the people. There were so many people when you were walking there, and I don't have money to join ACORN. And why would I tell you my issues and concerns. You're not going to do anything. After I talked to them for an hour, that was all changed. I got several members. And I gave them my word, if there is any problem, and you are not satisfied with your membership, and you truly feel in your heart that we are not fulfilling you in any way, you call me personally. Don't call my boss. Don't call my supervisor. Don't call my assistant. You call me personally, and I will come talk to you and I'll see what I can do. And that's how I got a lot of people to join, because whatever they needed, I would go out of my way to get. So, I...

That's the last job I had that I really, really enjoyed and getting people to vote. We had to go around and talk to people to vote. When I got out the hospital...I got out the hospital exactly on April 22. So I'm in the hospital in my crutches bandaged up because they...I had to get Coumadin shots again because of a blood clot. I was two hours in the hospital. So April 22 I'm walking around Allegheny County. Then I went to Beaver County. Just out the hospital, sick, so drowsy. "Sisters and brothers did you all vote today? We have got to change the nation." And then if they say, "Well, I don't vote and I don't believe in voting." I said, "Can I talk to you for a minute?" and I would talk to them for an hour. And I got some people to vote. And then afterwards, I went home and passed out because I just got out of the hospital and was sick. Honey, I fell out of the bed. I don't remember anything after that.

Interviewers: Well, you got them out to vote.

Sabrina: I got some people to vote. They changed their minds and they voted. So, it was worth it, even though I was sick at the time and just out of the hospital. It was worth it.

Interviewers: Didn't the founder of ACORN recently pass away?

Sabrina: Know what I've just...like I've been living out of state. I've just been back in Pennsylvania three weeks. So I don't...I have...I don't know what is going on with ACORN right now. This was a couple of years ago. No, this was about five years ago.

Interviewers: You said you grew up in Aliquippa. What plans?

Sabrina: That's...You mean a...

Interviewers: Aliquippa. You worked at different plans, Plan 12, Plan 9...?

Sabrina: Yeah. There's Plan 12. All I know is The Hill. You have The Hill.

Interviewers: Yeah, yeah.

Sabrina: And then you have West Aliquippa. Then you have Plan 12.

Interviewers: 12. Yeah.

Sabrina: Then you have Hopewell Township, you know. Center. And they spread it out like that.

Interviewers: (???) Mr. Downing was personally (???) in Aliquippa.

Sabrina: Oh, Joe Namath was from Beaver Falls.

Interviewers: Yeah.

Sabrina: Tony Dorsett, I grew up with him. He beat up my brother.

Interviewers: No, he didn't.

Sabrina: I'm still mad at him. For if I was to see him, I'm going to fuss at him. He had no business beating up my brother. I don't care if he is a famous football player.

Interviewers: That's right.

Sabrina: I grew up with him.

Interviewers: Oh, my goodness. When you first... When you started having trouble with your knees and there were things you couldn't do, was your family... did your family understand that? If you said, "I can't do that." But it was something you always did?

Sabrina: I lived with my son at the time. You know, young, in his early 20s, the oldest, and he a... he's very verbally and mental abusive anyway.

Interviewers: Mm hmm.

Sabrina: So, you know when it first happened, I didn't even tell him the degree of the damage. Okay, and a... He took it seriously when he see that I couldn't do things like I used to. You know, I'm up and I'm out. I'm gone. OK. When he noticed that I don't go and... he realized how serious it was.

Interviewers: Mm hmm. Mm hmm.

Sabrina: And then he started showing some concern.

Interviewers: Did he?

Sabrina: Mm hmm.

Interviewers: So, who do live with now? Or do you live with anybody?

Sabrina: I live with my step-daughter, my husband, and her three kids and she's 3.5. She's pregnant again.

Interviewers: You've got a big... you've got a lot of people in the house.

Sabrina: Um hmm. Well, me and my husband, we're looking for an apartment. I've only been back three weeks and we're looking now. So hopefully, we should be out the first

week of May. I'm believing and claiming a victory that I own that. In Jesus' name, Amen. Excuse me, I'm religious. I'm sorry.

Interviewers: Mm hmm. Mm hmm. In Aliquippa?

Sabrina: No, I prefer Allegheny.

Interviewers: Oh, do you?

Sabrina: I lived in Pittsburgh most of my life. I grew up in Aliquippa, but as soon as I was old enough to be on my own, I lived in Pittsburgh. So, I would love to return back to Pittsburgh.

Interviewers: Mm hmm. What kind of place are you looking for?

Sabrina: I want a two bedroom, two bath, and a ranch style. Modern. You know, with dishwasher and garbage disposal, something modern. Because, you know, they have old buildings here where it's not modern.

Interviewers: Mm hmm.

Sabrina: I don't want that. I don't want that at all.

Interviewers: It's hard for you to do steps, huh?

Sabrina: I can do steps, but it just, it's so time consuming.

Interviewers: Yeah, yeah.

Sabrina: See when you're heavy like I am, any exercise you can get, I don't mind. So, I don't mind doing steps, except for when it's real painful. When it's not paining me real bad, I don't mind. But I've got to go one at a time and it's very time consuming. You want to get where you got to get.

Interviewers: Yeah, right.

Sabrina: Give me an elevator so I can get there and get back. You know.

Interviewers: Right, right. For being so active your whole life, do you ever feel down or get depressed because of that?

Sabrina: Mm hmm.

Interviewers: Yeah.

Sabrina: Yeah. I've cried about it and said, "Well, Lord, there's a reason. You know, being you have this happen to me that it slowed me down when I'm used to going when I want to go." And I just prayed about it to the Lord and said there's a reason that this is happening. You know, but why would a...you know, why would God want me to a...what do you call that when you...when you're slowed down...and you can't do what you want to do? Oh, I'm looking for a specific word. I can't think of it. But, for me to be slowed down like this and I can't do what I need to do and I...and I got some things I need to accomplish. You know it was hard to accept, I have to admit that, at first. But then when you really truly love the Lord and you accept Him in your life, whatever He has for me I will accept. And this is what He has for me right now, I will accept. And then I believe things will be better in the future.

Interviewers: So, what was it hardest about to accept?

Sabrina: The hardest was to accept how I can't go anywhere, you know. You can't get up and go. And then when you do go, it's embarrassing, because you got the full knee pad on, and you got the walker or you got this. Or you got the crutches. Sometimes I use the crutches. Sometimes I use the walker. Sometimes I use this. So I...I don't drive so when you are walking down the street or you're waiting on the bus or you're getting on the bus, with the knee pads and all this stuff and people look at you, you know, "Look at the cripple at the bus stop. Look at the cripple going down the street." That's the hardest. How people look at you. You know. Like how am I going to get around, you know? You know. Why they stare at you? You know, like look at the poor cripple. You know, I don't like that.

Interviewers: And it's not something you were really used to even...

Sabrina: I've never been used to that. I've been catching buses...I left my husband. We've been back and forth for so many years and we back together now. And last time I was...last time we had a car, my son was...my oldest was...my youngest was 13. And he's 21. So, that's the last time we had car; the last time we were together. So I've been bussing it since then straight; and the way people look at you. No, I've never got used to it.

Interviewers: Right.

Sabrina: You know that's nice you got a car. That's nice you got a beautiful car. That's nice you don't have to wait for buses like this, but why are you staring at me?

Interviewers: Right. Mm hmm.

Sabrina: Okay, you see me walking down the street, why are you staring at me? It's been ten years and I don't understand. You know.

Interviewers: So you've...but there was a difference then between like before and then now with the arthritis, or not?

Sabrina: Yeah, it's worse now because I'm a cripple now. Walking down the street with knee pads and crutches and...They will...people will literally stare and they got this look on their face. "Look at the cripple," you know.

Interviewers: Mm hmm.

Sabrina: You know, who wants to see that?

Interviewers: Mm hmm.

Sabrina: I don't want to see that.

Interviewers: Mm hmm. Did you ever say anything to them?

Sabrina: No.

Interviewers: Now they are sort of looking at your disability versus looking at you as who you are?

Sabrina: I think they are looking at the disability and not me, you know. I agree with that. Oh, yeah.

Interviewers: Where do you think that's going to take you? It seems like you've had a lot of other really interesting and varied, you know, life experiences in work ways?

Sabrina: Mm hmm.

Interviewers: To kind of, you know, can you foresee it already kind of taking you in areas that you might not have been at all before? Not necessarily; maybe not.

Sabrina: You mean...

Interviewers: Just your life and what you're doing now versus, you know, before it became arthritis and severe for you. Do you see, kind of, you know, is that kind of a push to where you might...what you might be doing with your life now versus if you didn't have this?

Sabrina: You know what? Weird as it sounds, with the disabilities.

Interviewers: Mm hmm.

Sabrina: And this is how bad my days are sometimes. Because I was talking to a young lady, she was telling me about her friend. He was thrown off the sixth floor balcony. He say his back be in pain so bad, that it's unbelievable. OK, and he's in a wheelchair now because of this. He was thrown off a balcony. When I was telling her about my a...health problems and what I have to endure everyday practically, she said, "How in God's name can you be in that much pain and still do what you do?" And I say, "Because it's God's will." And she said, "It's like...It's like you are worse off than he is." And I said, "No I'm not because I... I'm not in a wheelchair."

I can get up and go, even though the pain is that bad sometimes. It's a...I can get up and go. I have a bowel problem, and when I'm not regular, my insides move. The intestines inside move. My organs move inside of me and it's like you being operated on. You can feel it, but I'm not going go into that...how...about how bad that pain is. That's just one of them. There's just so many. I still can be emphysema. I ain't going all into that. But with me being sick and the way I am, it makes me want to go more. It makes me want to do more. It makes me want to accomplish more. Because I look at people that have disabilities and stuff and, you know, like that movie... *Something For...* You know that movie about the guy who won the Heisman and he gave the award to his brother. It's a true story.

Interviewers: Yeah.

Sabrina: *Something for Joey.*

Interviewers: Yeah, yeah.

Sabrina: I said that little boy suffered all that pain and he kept going. I said now me that...now he deserves an award. But this makes me want to do more. It wants me to keep going more; and it's like each year, there's always something, you know. But it makes me want to be more active and do more.

Interviewers: Mm hmm. You know, when I first started, you started to tell me at least two things that you thought were really important.

Sabrina: Yeah.

Interviewers: To make sure that we get them in here.

Sabrina: OK, the two things I just wanted to mention was a...people with a disability sometimes they'll get treated fairly. And I think one of the reasons is because we are so...we're disabled. And I have bipolar, too, so I get depressed a lot. And when you are caught up in that, you don't want to take the necessary steps to complain. And the people who mistreat you, I think, they know that. "Well she's bipolar." "She's a mental patient."

“Oh, she’s handicapped. She can barely walk.” “Well, I’m going to treat her this way because she ain’t going to do nothing. She can’t even get out of bed some days.” I believe they think that way. And it’s true. There’re people out there that just won’t make the necessary steps because of their handicap. They just, you know, they don’t have that will power that, you know. And if we had an advocacy that we could talk to on a regular basis and say, “(???) here for disability. And I’m...next time I have a problem, I’m definitely calling.” But we...Now that I know where and how, which I knew before; but this time, I guess, it’s just given me more initiative to actually be here. That’s one of the things how people are treated unfairly because of disabilities; and that’s just unfortunate how people take advantage of that. And then, another thing I wanted talk about was a...voting. How a lot of people don’t want to vote; and because of change, and they’re scared of change. And that’s just so unfortunate for them and the world. Because how are you going to make a change if you won’t vote. And I just wanted to touch about voting. I’m into politics and voting, you all. Anybody who sees this, vote. OK.

Interviewers: Wow.

Sabrina: And I wasn’t into it. I’m a Democrat. But when Obama...this Obama when he went running, you know, I was like, “He ain’t even black. I don’t even care what he has to say.” And a...you know, to me a black person is someone that’s all black. Obama is mixed.

Interviewers: Mm hmm.

Sabrina: Like Halle Berry. She’s not black to me. She’s biracial to me. My grandson, he’s half white, half black. He’s biracial. He’s not black to me. So, so is Obama. But then I was sitting down and watching this program and a commercial came on. He said, “If you can change the room, you can change a person, you can change a room. And if you can change a room, you can change a city, you can change a nation. If you can change a city, you can change the nation. If you can change the nation, you can change the world. Let’s go change the world.” Ever since then, I’ve fell in love with Obama. I agree with that statement, and that’s what I tell people. Let’s change the world. Vote. OK, that’s what I got to say about that.

Interviewers: Do you think if the Obama campaign would have been when you didn’t have the arthritis and didn’t have this experience would you...do you think that played more into it or not necessarily? Because it seems to have been involved, what you said a year ago?

Sabrina: You know what. If I wasn’t handicapped or if I didn’t have these health problems, and if I heard that, I was...I would...I would be for him. So, I don’t have nothing to do with the illness. When I heard that, that’s what made me go for him because I agree with that statement.

Interviewers: I think that...I was thinking about you're an activist and like you're...you have more of a...an understanding now about issues around people with disabilities.

Sabrina: Because I'm that way. I start getting sick each year. About four or five years ago, I started getting sick and each year it got worse.

Interviewers: And that maybe this is where you're supposed to be going to be an activist in this...around disability issues and human rights and those kinds of things.

Sabrina: I was thinking about that. Maybe this is where I'm supposed to be.

Interviewers: Mm hmm. I think that's what I was trying to wonder when I was saying like, what do you think your next...you know, because everything has been so varied from the chef to...you know...you know what I mean?

Sabrina: I've had so many interesting jobs.

Interviewers: Yeah, and this is certainly not something, you know, the disability community wasn't necessarily something you had brought up.

Sabrina: Yeah, because...

Interviewers: As being involved before, but now it's definitely...

Sabrina: I don't think of myself as severely disabled.

Interviewers: Right, yeah.

Sabrina: You know, I don't think of myself as that because I can walk and, you know, I can do. Even though it's going to be a matter of time before I do get in a wheelchair. I'm not dumb. I understand that. But for now I can walk. You know.

Interviewers: Mm hmm. Yeah. So, what do you think...what has been the biggest influence for you in your life? People, movies, books, you know, experience?

Sabrina: Hmm.

Interviewers: Or some of the more major ones?

Sabrina: Well, you know what? You know how you apply to do surveys and focus groups, which I do sometimes? And they ask me this question every single time. If you could sit down and have a lunch with somebody, dead or alive, who would it be? And my answer every time, is Shirley Chisholm, the first black political woman. I would love to sit down with her. I want to know her story from beginning to end. How she got in

politics? How does she get where she is? She died a couple of years ago and I wish I would have gotten a chance to meet her before she died.

Interviewers: Why? What strikes you about her?

Sabrina: Because how she was a go getter. She went out and she made her mark in the political world and she's a black woman. And that was hard to do. Shirley Chisholm.

Interviewers: So, did you think about life and just talking about different people and what they've taught you. What would you like to think about yours in the sense of what you have been able to do for others?

Sabrina: Hmm.

Interviewers: Or what would you want them to see you as? In, you know, when you describe others of influences, there's kind of key points and...

Sabrina: That...I would like others to see me as a godly woman, that I have the Lord in me and that I love the Lord. That's number one. And that I could help them. And I can help them spiritually, mentally and I would like to inform them. You know. Like Shirley Chisholm how she helped people with a...trying to make the things better for people in her political career. Things like that. I was...I'm working on a...I'm trying open up my own web site now. It's going to be a...It's a serious...It's an informative web site and this is serious. And it's going to be...You've ever heard of the "Word Of Term" book? Every state you go into, there's a Word Of Term book where there's human resources on anything you need to know about that county, outside counties, or states. Well, my web site is going to be information on anything, anything that you want to know about anywhere. If you want a homemade recipe for a facial, it's on my web site. If you want to make a complaint to an official, it's in my web site, how to write a letter and all that. I'm gathering all the information. It's going to be a Word Of Term-like web site. It's an information and referral, information thing that I'm trying to do right now. So, I would like to help people that way. Because there's always questions out there that people need answered, and this will be easy. You just go straight to the web site, and find what you're looking for there. You know, for that.

Interviewers: So, did you say you have it now?

Sabrina: No, I'm working on it. I'm putting it together and working on it.

Interviewers: Yeah.

Sabrina: I don't have it open yet.

Interviewers: OK. What are you most proud of?

Sabrina: What am I most proud of?

Interviewers: Take your time answering.

Sabrina: No, I know. I know.

Interviewers: OK. There's no hurry on this.

Sabrina: I know exactly what I'm most proud of: My kids and my education--my intelligence. And I was on the job one time, this was back in 1997. It was at a nursing home and I was the cook. I was the morning and lunch cook. The lady had to train me, the supervisor. And she was a biracial. She's half black and half white, and we got in a conversation. And you don't talk about stuff like that on the job. I know that. But we got in a conversation, and my opinion about that came out. She called herself a black woman, and my opinion came out that she's not black, she's a biracial. And ever since we had that conversation, I apologized to her. She brought...I don't know how it came up. But it came up, and we were talking on that, but we dropped it right away. And I said, "I apologize if I offend you." And she was the one training me. And she...Ever since that conversation, she was terrible. She would give me the wrong information. You have to stop in the mornings for your...to cook your breakfast and your lunch. She didn't tell me that. Stuff that you need to do she would put it way off somewhere in another room. I couldn't get to it. When this has to be stopped, and this has to be done, and breakfast has to be done at this time and you have to wipe the tables off. I didn't know I had to do the dining room. The way she trained me was terrible ever since that conversation. It was interfering with me doing my job. And I tried to talk to her about say, "I apologize. I did not mean to offend you. That's just my opinion. Can we work together? You have to train me and I want to do my job right." I tried to talk to her about it. I was very nice. She still would not train me appropriately. So, I got to the point I went to the head person. And I sat down with her and I said, "Excuse me. I don't want to be any trouble, but there is a slight problem with the persons training me. Could you talk to her please?" And she said, "Well, what's going on?" And I said, "Would you just talk to her?" And she talked to her and she came out with it. "Well, yeah, I did this." And she had a real attitude. And she came back to me. She says, "Sabrina, she's going to be gone for a while. I gave her some time off. She was disrespectful to you. She was disrespectful to me. Someone else will be training you." And she looked at me, and she said, "How you handled yourself." She saw what she did because she...how she was training me. She did nothing right and she tried to mess up my job. And I handled my job right even though she wouldn't give me the right information. You have to watch and see what other people are doing. "Oh, I'm supposed to be there at 12:00 but I came at 10:00." Because I got to watch and see what people doing because she ain't telling me. She said, "You handled yourself very respectful, very professional. I'm glad you're here. She's gone. Have a great day." I'm proud of that. Because anybody else would have been like, "You b-i-t-c-h. Look what you're doing. You're trying to get me fired. You're messing up my job!" They would

have been ready to fight. I was young at the time. I was in my late 20s, early 30s, and you know, I wasn't with the Lord at the time. OK, but I wanted that job. It paid good, and I know you have to respect and act accordingly and professionally on the job or you out of there. So that's why I acted that way and she told me that, and I was just...I'm so proud of myself to this day that I was very angry. I was very upset with that woman and I'm glad she gave her a couple weeks off. She gave her a vacation early. And when she came back from her vacation, she acted much better. She said "She's gone. She's out of here for a while, and things are going to be OK." So that's...what was the question? What am I...

Interviewers: What are you most proud of?

Sabrina: That's what I'm proud of. I handled myself very good on that job.

Interviewers: Yeah.

Sabrina: That was a sticky situation and, you know, I did put my foot in my mouth. When that subject came up about racism, I should have never given my opinion like that because she called herself a black woman. And I said, "You're not a black woman; you're biracial."

And she didn't like that. She thinks of herself as black, because she's half black, half white. She grew up with a black family. Her father was black and she grew up with his family. She considered herself a black woman. And for me to say that you're not black offended her. And ever since then, she treated me badly. If I could do it over again, I would have never said it. You do not base your opinions on your job. And I know that. I was old enough to know that. But it just came out. You know, I wouldn't do it again. I never did it again.

Interviewers: Yeah.

Sabrina: Don't take a picture with me smiling. You'll see the gap in my teeth.

Interviewers: No. That's what I was waiting for.

Sabrina: No. You'll see the gap. I'm old and my teeth were jacked. It's a matter of time before I get dentures.

Interviewers: You're not old. Well, when you think about the oral history project, is there anything, you know, in regards to history not repeating itself and things needing to be told or voiced. Is there anything that comes to mind that you feel like should, you know, be reminded or stated?

Sabrina: You mean concerning history?

Interviewers: Especially with having a disability, but since you're, you know, the arthritis is later; I think that it's still a pretty new concept but, you know, I think in just general and being in southwestern PA that's, you know, kind of just our focus is doing an oral history and... You know, I mean the same advice and situations apply; it's not necessarily, you know, if you have a disability of any sort makes you any different in handling a situation.

Sabrina: Oh, I don't know. I don't know.

Interviewers: You haven't really been given too much of a thought, you know, a heads up on being able to think about it but... things like the recent disabilities... It's sort of the whole history of the American Disabilities Act and all that. Understand where that all came from. Actually, it came out of the civil rights movement like almost everything, you know, in the whole the United States that has been positive for the last, you know, 40-some years coming out of the Civil Rights Movement. We were just wondering if people forget about those early movements in terms of...

Sabrina: I know some information, but I don't know too much on that like when it started and all that. But I'm just glad that we have it here and everything else available for people with disabilities. The Disability Act and all the programs that are here today, and so appreciative, I mean, everyone that's here that is handicapped. And I'm very glad it's here.

Interviewers: Any words of wisdom?

Sabrina: Yeah. This old man gave me a ride home one time and he said, "Respect costs you nothing, but it's worth more than gold." I remember that 'til the day I die. I agree with it. Don't you agree with it?

Interviewers: It's probably more appropriate now than it's ever been, too.

Sabrina: And these young people today, they don't even respect themselves. Some of these young people are just terrible.

Interviewers: Mm hmm. That's the truth.

Sabrina: Mm hmm. My one son is one of them... the oldest. He has like three different types of snakes. His house is full of snakes and all kinds of crawly creatures. He has issues. He's in Phoenix, Arizona.

Interviewers: It's a little more appropriate environment then, you know. Is there anything else before we kind of wrap up that you want to?

Sabrina: Could you tell me just a little bit more about your program and you said this is a...

Interviewers: This specifically is just kind of a one-time, grant-funded as far as we know, oral history project. But it's coming out of the Office of Community Relations and the Disability Link at Allegheny County Department of Human Services. And the Disability Link does exactly what it sounds, you know, link services. Anything from housing to, you know, kind of the full gamut of what someone might need, or want just information.

Sabrina: Do you all have an information booth out here?

Interviewers: Mm hmm.

Sabrina: You all do?

Interviewers: In the housing. Mostly about housing, but there's in that room way over...past the food...yeah...you know where the food is there and then straight ahead.

Sabrina: Yeah, I'm going in another room. I got to go back there before I leave.

Interviewers: When you go to the right the table's right there.

Sabrina: So, this is a one-time thing?

Interviewers: But it's part of... you know the Disability Link is a continuous piece.

Sabrina: Yeah, and this is to help you?

Interviewers: Well, the world is just about... This is Judy's idea for an oral history project because of Pittsburgh 250. 250 years of celebrating Pittsburgh's birthday. And there wasn't anything out there that was funded, that was designed to cover the people with disabilities. What was the history of disabilities in Allegheny County? How did all of a sudden there were curb cuts? How did all of this take place? It just didn't happen; just interview people from the past, older generation who started all the projects to now, to younger people.

Sabrina: Well this is a good idea to interview all disabilities. Well, this is a good idea.

Interviewers: So, you know, the history doesn't disappear and we'll have a reference point of where...

Sabrina: And it was your idea?

Interviewers: It was Judy's idea.

Sabrina: You know what? Well, you're a very intelligent lady yourself.

Interviewers: I try. Yeah, it's been really neat. We've done a couple and have a lot more scheduled so that's why... We're just trying to get a variety of experiences with different people with disabilities...

Sabrina: This is nice.

Interviewers: I appreciate your doing this.

Sabrina: And then when you all show it in November, you all going to give me the information because I would like to go?

Interviewers: Yeah. Well, I will be in contact with you, I'm sure. And if you wouldn't mind doing an evaluation, you can just take it with you, and do it on your own. Just email it, send it back to the office, however you want. There's my contact information on the bottom so, if you have any questions or anything, too, you know, after you've done this and thought about it or something like; you can give us a call and I'd be more than happy to answer anything, so...

Sabrina: So I would fill this out and just...

Interviewers: And either mail it in or you can type it and email it to me. The address is on the bottom... whatever is convenient. And I have your information so I'll be sure... you'll definitely be put on the invitation list.

Sabrina: Oh, OK, you got my email address?

Interviewers: Sure. I can put it in there.