**COB PROJECT:**

**ASYLUM INTERVIEW OF UNACCOMPANIED MINOR**

**Introduction**:

Asylum Officer (AO) begins by stating that everyone in this room has a special job, that the interviewee's most important job is to tell the truth and that everyone is there today for the interviewee and to hear their story about what happened. Explains that interviewee should speak in short sentences to allow for accurate translation.

**Q: Do you know why you're here today?**

**First we're going to go over the application, and then second you'll talk about why you're afraid to return to your country. You're not going to get a decision today, you'll get a decision later in the mail. Later we're going to have a monitor on the phone to monitor the translation and make sure it's accurate and complete.**

**How do you know your interpreter?**

AO puts both applicant and interpreter under oath.

**Did your attorneys help fill out your application?**

**Did someone review the application with you in Spanish?**

**Is everything true?**

**[The AO then went through the first few pages of the application and confirmed that all of the contact and history information was true, numbered the corrections with a red pen and then the interviewee signed the application to verify that the changes and the total application were correct. ]**

**The AO called an interpretation monitor on the phone. This took some time. The AO started the questions before a monitor joined the call.**

**Are you a citizen of any country besides El Salvador?**

**Is this the only time you've applied for asylum?**

**Did you pay to come here?**

**Did your family pay for you to come here?**

**How did you come?**

**Why?**

**How did you end up coming to the United States?**

**While you were travelling to the US did anyone harm you?**

**Did anyone else come with you today?**

**Who do you live with?**

**Do you have your own bedroom?**

**If you need something like pencils or stuff for school, who gets that for you?**

**Are you able to attend school without any problems?**

**Do you feel safe here in the United States?**

**When did you last talk to your mom?**

**Does she know you're applying for asylum?**

**Did someone give you permission to apply?**

**Why did you apply for asylum?**

**When was the first time you were threatened?**

**What happened?**

**How many people threatened you?**

**Tell me step by step what happened**

**Did you ever become a member of a gang?**

**How long after that first incident was the second incident?**

**How did you know they were gang members?**

**What happened during the second incident?**

**Where did this happen?**

**What happened?**

**Were you hurt?**

**How?**

**How long did this last?**

**Did you have to go to the hospital?**

**What happened next?**

**Are your sisters also applying for asylum?**

**What is the name of the Gang?**

**Why do you think the Gang wanted you to join?**

**Did you know any of the people that threatened you?**

**Are they from the same town?**

**Did they say anything that let you know they knew you didn't have a father?**

**Why do you think they try to get teenagers without a strong family member at home?**

**How is it different with a strong person at home?**

**How old were you when your father died?**

**Did most of the people in your town know your father died when you were little?**

**Could your mother protect you?**

**Why not?**

**What makes you think that?**

**Do you know anyone that has been hurt by the gangs?**

**What happened to those people? [AO went through people one by one and asked step-by-step what happened]**

**Do you have any friends the gang tried to recruit?**

**Why did they ask them to join?**

**Did your friend join the gang?**

**Did you report this to the police?**

**Why not?**

**Did you ever become a member of the gang?**

**How far are the police from where you lived?**

**Do you think the police can protect you?**

**Why?**

**Why do you think that?**

**How do you know?**

**What will happen to you if you go back?**

**Why?**

**Since you came have you heard the gang members are asking about you?**

**How do you know that?**

**How many times have they asked for you?**

**Would you say five times? Ten times? Twenty times?**

**Have you ever been harmed for your religion?**

**Did anyone try to stop you from going to church?**

**Did you ever speak out against the gangs?**

**Has anyone ever harmed you because of your nationality?**

**Did your mom ever hurt you?**

**Did anyone else ever hurt you besides the gangs?**

**Were you part of a political organization?**

**Did the gang members know that you went to church?**

**Did the gang members ever try to stop you from going to church?**

**Could you live safely somewhere else in El Salvador?**

**Would police protect you?**

**The AO explained that the following questions were sort of odd but that they ask these same questions to everyone who applies for asylum so they have to ask:**

**Have you ever harmed anyone else?**

**Have you ever been arrested?**

**Have you ever been in jail?**

**Have you ever been part of a group that uses weapons?**

**Have you ever been trained to use a gun?**

**Have you ever done terrorism?**

**Have you ever been part of a violent group?**

**Do you plan to do anything to hurt the United States?**

**Do you plan to do illegal things in the United States?**

**What countries have you been to? [what countries did you travel through coming here?]**

**Is there anything else you want to say?**

**(to the attorneys) would you like to make a closing statement on the record? (typed closing statement into interview notes in its entirety, and also allowed us to ask questions that hadn’t been fully explored in the interview or circle back to questions that were partially answered)**