Embassy of Nigeria
Trifecta Field Trip 2013

http://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/
Dr. Stephen Momoh Baba
Minister of Culture, Education, and Information
Embassy of Nigeria
Kat, "Some say oil is a double edged sword. How do you view your oil resources?"

Dr. Baba, "Oil is a blessing. But we have a big problem with corruption."
Jack, "What does your ethnicity mean to you as a Nigerian and a diplomat?"

Dr. Baba, "I am from a poor village north of Abuja. We have 250 ethnic groups; many Nigerians come to the US. You can find Nigerians just about everywhere."
Karli, "Do you believe former British Colonialism is at the root of your problems?"

Dr. Baba, "Yes. They have their claws in our resources. Now it is a "neocolonialism" that needs to end."
Ambareesh, "Can you comment on your work with the UN"?
Lauren, "why are Nigerians so politically active?"

Dr. Baba, "Nigerians are very adventurous."
Susanna, "What is being done to address the high maternal mortality rate?"

Dr. Baba, "This is a UN objective, and we are working with the World Health Organization."
HanBin, "Do you think the policy of ethnic rotation for the President is working?"

Dr. Baba, "Yes. It is unwritten now but may be written in the future."
Gary, "Do you have any feelings about the US failure to intervene in the Civil War?"

Dr. Baba, "The US was cautious of inflaming problems."
Elizabeth, "Obasanjo tried to Amend the Constitution to allow for a third term..."
Dr. Baba, "I just talked to him yesterday. His efforts did not work. ECOWAS was opposed to this measure"
Emily L, "Are there any female candidates like Sara Jubril?"

Dr. Baba, "Our goal is to have 40% of government offices occupied by females. I think there will be a female president in the next 10 years."
Stitch, "Is it true women can't own land in Nigeria..?"

Dr. Baba, "No it is not true. Maybe in the north in some places."
Melanie, "What limits universal primary education in the north?"

Dr. Baba, "Early marriage. Girls should finish high school at least. This is a problem in the North."
Imren, "How is the govt combatting the "brain drain" of doctors?"

Dr. Baba, "We are making being a doctor attractive with better pay and benefits."
JT, "Do you expect the prosecution of governors to be successful?"

Dr. Baba, "No governor is in jail now. We have a weak legal system. " 
Andrew, "What is being done to fight corruption."

Dr. Baba, "There is a new Whistleblower law implemented to help with this. Corruption is a problem everywhere."
Calvin, "what will be the most effective solution for poverty alleviation in Nigeria?"

Dr. Baba, "We have a poverty alleviation agency and many microcredit programs. We advocate education, and smaller families."
Emily, "Does the term "Nigeria" elicit a sense of nationalism"

Dr. Baba, "Yes it does, especially for the young."
Jilly, "What is it like to work for President Goodluck Jonathan?"

Dr. Baba, "Very good, he is a good listener."
Maria, "Can you comment on what it meant for Nigeria to win the Africa cup?"

Dr. Baba, "For a week, nobody slept in Abuja. I was at the game. We were going crazy. Every player received $10 million."