

Interview questions-General

For the Record:

State at the beginning of the interview:

Today is _____ it is _____ PM, We are at _____ School

We are interviewing _____

_____ birth date is _____

The people conducting the interview are _____ and myself _____, recording the interview is _____

We are working with _____ Class

Background : Lets get a sense of who you are and what your roots are,,,

Where and when were you born?

Where did you grow up? (describe the town,,)

Where have you lived? (describe the towns, size etc)

What jobs have you had? (from youth up to today)

What do you do for a living now?

Why did you become a _____?

Family History: Let's talk a little bit about your family, traditions,,,

What do you know about your family name?

Are there stories about its history or origins?

Are there any traditional first names or nicknames in your family?
What are they?

Do you know any stories about how your family first came to the United States?

Where did they first settle? Why?

How did they make a living?

Did your family stay in one place or move around?

What stories have come down to you about your parents and grandparents? More distant ancestors?

How did your parents, grandparents, and other relatives come to meet and marry?

Growing up: Let's look at how you grew up,,,

What are some of your childhood memories? (school, clubs, teams, friends, trips)

What games did you play when you were a child?

What kinds of toys did you play with?

What kind of home entertainment was there? Was there storytelling? Music? Were there craft traditions? Describe these traditions.

How were holidays traditionally celebrated in your family?

What holidays are the most important? Are there special family traditions, customs, songs, foods?

Has your family created its own traditions and celebrations? What are they? How did they come about?

Does your family hold reunions? When? Where? Who attends? How long have the reunions been going on? What activities take place? Are awards given out? Is there a central figure who is honored? Why? What sorts of stories are told at these events?

What family heirlooms or keepsakes and mementos do you possess? Why are they valuable to you? What is their history? How were they handed down? Are there any memories or stories connected with them?

Do you have any photo albums, scrapbooks, home movies? Who made them? When? Can you describe/explain their contents? Who is pictured? What activities and events are documented?

Local History and Community Life: Let's look at the community in which you were raised,,,,

Describe the place — urban neighborhood, small town, rural community, suburb where you grew up. What was it like? What impression did it leave you with as you grew up?

How has it changed over the years? What brought about these changes?

What did people do for a living? What do they do now?

How have historical events affected your family and community? For example, what were some of your experiences during World War II, the Civil Rights Movement? Cultural Traditions/Occupational Skills

Closing thoughts: Here is your opportunity to tell us about those things we may have missed,,

What advice would you give to a young person considering _____ as a career?

Is there anything else you would like to tell us that we haven't covered?