



Interview with History

Talk about conducting interviews. Explain how an interview is just a conversation with active listening. Guide students through the following steps and write interview questions, using the template below, *Interview Guideline*.

Prepare: Choose someone to interview – A relative, friend, neighbor, veteran, retired teacher or principal, member of a senior citizens group, a person in your community. Pick someone whose story you'd like to discover. Maybe it's your own mother!

Plan: Write questions. For starters, first use questions about your interview subject's own personal memories. These will relax your subject and help you gather information about your subject's personal experiences.

Interview: Meet with your subject. Be on time. Bring along your questions. Record the interview (computer, smartphone, tablet), but be sure your subject agrees to it. If your subject tells a different story than your question, let him/her finish and then ask your next question.

Follow-Up: Be sure to send a thank-you letter to your interview subject.

Interview Guideline

Write three **warm-up** questions about the person's place of birth, hometown, occupation, childhood, or favorite activities.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Write at least six questions to help you get stories

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Prepare some follow-up questions. These questions should help you to get more detailed information from your interviews.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Sample questions to get you started...

- What are some of your childhood memories? What games did you play when you were a child?
- How are holidays traditionally celebrated in your family? What holidays are the most important?
- What was the happiest (funniest or saddest) memory?
- What was your biggest accomplishment?
- What actions would you change if you had a chance to re-live those years again?

Ask for details or explanations...

- How did the story begin or end?
- Why did this happen...?
- Why was this important?
- What happened next...?
- Can you describe the scene...?
- Who was there with you?