



LEGACY

GREAT QUESTION LIST

Before your conversation, ask your interview partner what they would like to talk about and what stories they would like to share. Then prepare a list of questions during the interview. You can use some of the suggested questions below, or come up with your own list. For more great questions, visit storycorps.org/questions.

Life

- What was one of the happiest moments of your life? The saddest?
- Who has been the biggest influence on you?
- How has your life been different than you imagined it would be?
- Do you have any regrets?
- What are you the proudest of in your life?

Growing Up

- Tell me about the community where you grew up.
- What were you like as a child?
- What did you do for fun when you were young?
- Did you ever get into trouble? What was the worst thing you did?
- Did you have a nickname? How did you get it?
- What is one of your favorite stories from your youth?
- What were your parents like?
- Who were your favorite relatives?
- What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs?

Love

- When did you first fall in love?
- Tell me about your husband/wife.
- How did you propose?
- What were the best times? The most difficult times?
- What have you learned from your relationships?

Spirituality

- Can you tell me about your religious/spiritual beliefs? What formed them?
- How have your beliefs changed during your life?
- What was the most profound spiritual moment of your life?
- Have you experienced any miracles?
- Do you believe in an after-life? What do you think it will be like?

School

- Did you enjoy school?
- What kind of student were you?
- How would your classmates remember you?
- What are your best/worst memories of school?
- Tell me about a teacher or teachers who had a particularly strong influence on your life.

Parenthood

- Can you describe the moment when you saw your child for the first time?
- How has being a parent changed you?
- Do you have any favorite stories about your kids?
- Do you remember any songs that you used to sing to your child/children? Can you sing them now?
- What are your dreams for your children?

Work

- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- Tell me about how you got into your line of work.
- What lessons has your work life taught you?
- If you could do anything now, what would you do? Why?

War

- Were you in the military?
- Did you go to war? What was it like?
- How did war change you?
- During your service, can you recall time when you were afraid?
- What lessons did you learn from this time in your life?

Serious Illness

- Can you tell me about your illness?
- How has your illness changed you?
- If you could speak to yourself before you came ill, what would you say?
- At this time in your life, what nourishes your heart/soul/spirit?
- Do you look at your life differently now than before you were diagnosed?

Final Days

- Do you think about dying? Are you scared?
- How do you imagine your death?
- What is most important to you at this time of life?
- Do you have any last wishes?

Leaving a Legacy

- What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?
- Is there anything you've never told me that you'd like to tell me today?
- What advice would you pass on to those who come after you?
- How do you want to be remembered?

Caregiving

- Describe how you felt when you first learned of your loved one's condition.
- How has [name's] condition impacted your life?
- When did you first realize that you were going to be taking on caregiving responsibilities?

- How has taking care of [name] changed your life?
- What have you learned about [name] from this experience?
- What have you learned about yourself from this experience?
- What is the most stressful part of caregiving?
- What is the most rewarding part of caregiving?
- Who would take care of you if you needed help?

Remembrance

- Tell me about a vivid memory you have of [name].
- Describe what [name] looked like.
- What about [name] made you smile?
- What are the things you miss most about [name]?
- Tell me what your relationship with [name] was like.
- What are your favorite jokes or anecdotes that [name] used to share?
- What is something special about [name] you would want others to know.
- How are you different from before you lost [name]?
- What has helped you in your grief?
- If you could talk to [name] right now, what would you say?