

STORYCORPS CONNECT INSTRUCTIONS/QUESTIONS LIST

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Most participants are able to get through about six questions during a 40-minute interview, so please select six to eight questions from the lists below for your interview partner. Keep in mind that sometimes the best questions are the ones that you've always wanted to ask, so feel free to add a few of your own.

INTRODUCTIONS

Begin with both participants introducing themselves:

PARTICIPANT 1:

My name is (name). I am (age) years old. Today is (date), and I'm speaking with (partner's name), who is my (relationship). I am recording this interview in (place, city, state; e.g., "my home in Nome, Alaska").

PARTICIPANT 2:

My name is (name). I am (age) years old. Today is (date), and I'm speaking with (partner's name), who is my (relationship). I am recording this interview in (place, city, state; e.g., "my home in Nome, Alaska").

GREAT QUESTIONS FOR ANYONE:

1. Can you tell me about the person who has been kindest to you in your life?
2. Can you tell me about one of your happiest memories?
3. Can you tell me about one of your most difficult memories?
4. Can you tell me about someone who has had a big influence on your life? What lessons did that person teach you?
5. What do you feel most grateful for in your life?
6. What are some of the most important lessons you've learned in life?
7. What is your favorite memory of me?
8. What are you proudest of in your life?
9. Can you remember a time in your life when you felt most alone?
10. How has your life been different than what you'd imagined?
11. How would you like to be remembered?
12. Do you have any regrets?
13. What are your hopes for me? For my children?
14. If this was to be our very last conversation, is there anything you'd want to say to me?
15. For future generations of your family listening to this years from now: Is there any wisdom you'd want to pass on to them? What would you want them to know?
16. Is there anything that you've never told me but want to tell me now?
17. Are there things about me that you've always wanted to know but have never asked?
18. Turn the tables: tell the person you're interviewing what they've meant to you.
19. Add your own question(s) here.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC QUESTIONS:

1. How has living through this experience made you feel?
2. Are you afraid? What frightens you?
3. What has given you comfort and hope during this time?
4. What has been the most challenging part of this experience?
5. What is the toughest part of your days right now? The best?
6. What's the biggest way your life has changed because of the pandemic?
7. Is there someone you can't see right now who you really wish you could?
8. How is this experience different from other historical events you've lived through?
9. If you could ask anyone from your life, living or dead, for advice on getting through this, who would it be and what would you ask them?
10. Do you or have you had COVID-19? What is/was that experience like for you?
11. What memory of this time do you think will stay with you?
12. Has this experience changed you? If so, how?
13. What have you learned from this experience?
14. Who do you most worry about in your family or circle of friends right now?
15. If the quarantine ended tomorrow, what's the first thing you'd do?
16. Is there anything you want to say to me given what we're living through at this moment?

GRANDPARENT QUESTIONS:

1. Where did you grow up?
2. What was your childhood like?
3. Who were your favorite relatives?
4. What was my mom/dad like growing up?
5. Do you remember any songs that you used to sing to her/him? Can you sing them now?
6. What is the worst thing she/he ever did?
7. What were your parents like?
8. What were your grandparents like?
9. Are you proud of me?