



Oral History Guide

Here's a list of oral history questions that can help guide a conversation and gather personal stories and experiences from individuals. **Helpful hint:** Print it out and notate times in the recording next to each question.

- 1** Can you share some **memories from your childhood**? What was your family like, and what were some of the activities you enjoyed?
- 2** What do you remember about your **parents or grandparents**? Can you tell me any stories or anecdotes about them?
- 3** How did you meet your **spouse or partner**? Can you describe your courtship or the early days of your relationship?
- 4** What significant **historical events** do you recall witnessing or experiencing firsthand? How did these events impact you and those around you?
- 5** Can you share any memories or experiences from your time **servicing in the military**?
- 6** What was your **occupation or profession**? How did you get into it, and what were some notable experiences or challenges you faced in your career?
- 7** Do you have any recollections of **major technological advancements** or changes that occurred during your lifetime? How did these changes affect your day-to-day life?
- 8** Were you part of any **social or cultural movements**? Can you describe your involvement and the impact it had on your life?
- 9** Are there any **personal or family stories** that have been passed down through generations? Can you share any of those stories with us?
- 10** Tell us about each of **your children**, their births, a happy memory or story, what you're most proud about them.
- 11** Tell us about a few of **your closest friends**, how they became your friend, a happy memory or story, what you most cherish about them.
- 12** Is your **religion or faith** an important part of your life? Tell us about it.

- 13** What are some of the most memorable **vacations or trips** you've taken? Where did you go, and what made those experiences special?
- 14** Can you recall any **humorous or lighthearted anecdotes** from your life that still make you laugh today?
- 15** How has your **community or neighborhood changed** over the years? Are there any specific developments or transformations that stand out to you?
- 16** Have there been any **personal milestones or achievements** that you're particularly proud of? Can you share the story behind them?
- 17** What **advice or life lessons** would you pass on to future generations based on your own experiences and observations?
- 18** How would you like to **be remembered**?

Remember, these questions are just a starting point, and you can tailor them to suit the person's background and experiences. The goal is to foster a comfortable environment for storytelling and capturing valuable oral history.