

Interview Report

Interview Report

Your Memories All About You

1. Tell me all about your name. (Ideas: full name, why your parents chose it, if you were named after anyone, nicknames and how you got them)

2. Where were you born? (Ideas: name of hospital or other place, town, county, state, country)

3. What is your birth date? (Ideas: month, day, year)

4. Tell me an interesting thing about your birth.

5. When you were little, what did you look like? (Ideas: What color were your eyes and hair? Were you chubby or thin? Did you resemble someone else in the family?)

An Apple a Day

6. How have you felt about doctors throughout your life?

7. Tell me about a time when you were very ill.

Interview Report

8. When are some other times you have required medical assistance?

9. How do you feel about growing old? (Ideas: wearing glasses, hearing aids, aches and pains, staying in shape)

As Time Goes By

10. How do you feel about retirement?

11. What organizations have you belonged to as an adult?

12. What are some of the choice experiences you have had as a grandparent?

13. Do you have or know about any interesting family memorabilia? (Ideas: letters, diaries, newspaper clippings, photographs)

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

Children in the Family

14. How did you feel about becoming, or not becoming, a parent?

15. What are the names and birth dates of your children?

16. What are some of your favorite memories of spending time with children?

17. What do you think is the most difficult part of raising children?

Interview Report

Dating

18. Describe your first date. (Ideas: How old were you? Who did you go with? What did you do?)

19. Describe your dating experience. (Ideas: Did you date a lot? Were you shy or popular? What did you think about dating?)

20. What were some of your fun dating activities?

21. What is the best or worst date you ever had?

22. What challenges did being single present?

Faith

Interview Report

23. What part has religion played in your life? (Ideas: What was your family's religion? Did you attend church?)

24. Who taught you the most about faith?

25. Tell me about spiritual or inspirational experiences you have had.

Family Folklore

26. What do you remember about losing your baby teeth or having visits from the Tooth Fairy?

27. Describe some interesting cures or remedies you have known about. (Ideas: warts, colds, hiccups, or staying healthy)

Interview Report

28. What were some superstitions you grew up hearing?

29. If you made a wish when you were young, what would you have wished for?

Family Time

30. How would you describe family life when you were growing up?

31. When we worked together, this is what we did:

32. Tell me about some of your family vacations.

33. What is one of your favorite, funny family memories?

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

Favorite Things

34. Tell me about your favorite hobby.

35. Tell me about your favorite season.

36. Tell me about your favorite sports.

37. Tell me about your favorite holidays.

38. Tell me about your favorite foods.

39. Tell me about your favorite books.

40. Tell me about your favorite movies.

Interview Report

41. Tell me about your favorite songs.

42. Tell me about your favorite heroes.

43. Tell me about your favorite sayings.

Graduation and After

44. Tell me about your high school graduation. (Ideas: How did you feel? What were the graduation night traditions? Did you receive any special gifts?)

45. What did you do right after high school? (Ideas: Where did you work? Where and with whom did you live? How did life change for you?)

Getting Married

46. Why did you choose to marry or not marry?

47. Tell me how you met your spouse and a little about your courtship. (Ideas: What was the attraction? How long were you engaged? Did your parents approve? How did the proposal happen?)

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

48. When did you get married? (Ideas: month, day, year)

49. Where did you get married? (Ideas: place, town, county, state, country)

50. Tell me about your wedding and honeymoon. (Ideas: location of the wedding and reception, events and participants)

Holidays and Celebrations

51. What was your favorite holiday and how did you celebrate it?

52. What are some things you did on other holidays and special occasions?

53. Tell me about your favorite birthday memory?

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

54. What do you remember about family reunions or gatherings?

Home Sweet Home

55. Tell me the different places where you lived when you were growing up.

56. Describe one of the homes you remember best. (Ideas: the size of the house and yard, what your bedroom was like, if the house had a scary place)

Hopes and Dreams

57. What did you always want to be when you grew up?

58. What did your parents think about your aspirations?

59. Tell me about something you have never done, but always wanted to.

Interview Report

60. What are some other things you would like to tell about?

Learning Responsibility

61. What chores were you responsible for when you were young?

62. Where did you get spending money and how did you spend it?

63. Did your family have enough money, or did you worry about family finances?

64. What was your first job for pay and what was it like? (Ideas: What were your duties? Did you like the job? How much did you get paid? Did your employer like you?)

Looking Back

65. Tell me about a very happy time in your life.

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

66. What is the funniest thing you ever did?

67. What was your most embarrassing moment?

68. Tell me about one of your saddest memories.

69. How have you changed over the years?

Your Brothers and Sisters

70. What are your brothers' and sisters' given names and birth dates?

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

71. Tell some special things about them. (Ideas: talents, nicknames, challenges, any who died young and what were the circumstances)

Your Kin

72. What do you know about ancestors who came from other countries? (Ideas: What countries did they come from? Where did they settle? What languages did they speak?)

73. What are some memories you have of visits from relatives? (Ideas: How long did they stay? Did you enjoy their visits? Did any relatives also live with you?)

74. Tell me about your grandparents. (Ideas: their names, where they lived, what they were like, memories you have of being with them or being in their homes)

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

Your Parents

75. What is your father's name?

76. What is his birth date? (Ideas: month, day, year)

77. Where was he born? (Ideas: place, town, county, state, country)

78. What were some of your father's characteristics?

79. What is your mother's name?

80. What is her birth date? (Ideas: month, day, year)

81. Where was she born? (Ideas: place, town, county, state, country)

82. What were some of your mother's characteristics?

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

Parting Words

83. If you should be gone tomorrow, what advice would you like to leave for your family?

School Days

84. What is the name of the Elementary School you attended?

85. What is the name of the Jr. High or Middle School you attended?

86. What is the name of the High School you attended?

87. How did you get to school and how far was it from home?

88. When you received grades, what were they like?

89. What were some of your favorite things about school? (Ideas: subjects, teachers, clubs, sports, band, choir, dances)

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

90. What did you like least about school?

Stormy Seas

91. What is one of your scariest memories?

92. Did people ever tease you? What about?

93. What kinds of things were you punished for? How were you punished?

94. What did you think about running away from home? Did you ever try it?

Traditions

95. What foods did your family enjoy?

Interview Report

96. What role did music play in your family's life?

97. Tell me about reading traditions or habits in your family. (Ideas: special books or stories, your family's library, or the local library)

98. What are some traditions that you carried from your parents' family to your own?

Your Teenage Years

99. What are some of the things that were popular when you were a teen? (Ideas: songs, dances, clothes, fads)

100. When you were a teenager, how did you get along with the family?

101. Tell me about learning to drive. (Ideas: How old were you? Who taught you? What was the first car you drove?)

102. How did you feel about being a teenager?

Interview Report

Other Information: _____

103. What activities did you participate in outside of school? (Ideas: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church or community affairs)

Permission to Use Interview

I hereby give and grant to Martha Gerdes and Marlene Gerdes Yousef my transcribed memoir as a donation for such scholarly and educational purposes as they shall determine. It is expressly understood that the full literary rights of this memoir shall pass to the heirs of Martha Gerdes, Marlene Gerdes Yousef, and the interviewee.

Signature of Interviewee

Address of Interviewee

Signature of Interviewer

Address of Interviewer

Date of Agreement
