

- What is your full name, and why were you named that? (Include a maiden name for women.)
- Were you named after someone else?
- Did you have a nickname when you were growing up? If so, what was it, and why were called that?
- Have you had any other nicknames as an adult?
- What do your family members call you now?
- When and where were you born?
- When were you baptised, and what was your religion?
- What was the religion of your parents and your grandparents?
- What church, if any, do you attend now?
- What church do your parents and your grandparents attend?
- Where was your first home?
- In what other homes/places have you lived?
- What were your earliest memories of your home?
- Could you tell me a story or any memory of your brothers and sisters?
- What are the full names of your brothers and sisters?
- What did your family do for fun when you were a child?
- Was there a chore you really hated doing as a child?
- What kinds of books did you like to read?
- Do you remember having a favourite nursery rhyme or bedtime story? What was it?
- Do you remember not having enough food to eat because times were hard for your family?
- What were your favourite toys, and what were they like?
- What were your favourite childhood games?
- Were there any fads during your youth that you remember vividly?
- Where did you attend grade school?
- Where did you attend high school?
- What were your schools like?
- How did you like school?
- What was your favourite subject in school and why?
- What subject in school was the easiest for you?
- What was your least favourite subject in school and why?
- Who was your favourite teacher, and why was he/she special?
- How do your fellow classmates from school remember you best?
- Did you get good grades?
- What did you wear to school? Describe it.
- What school activities and sports did you participate in?
- Did you and your friends have a special hangout where you liked to spend time?
- Where was it, and what did you do there?
- Were you ever given any special awards for your studies or school activities?
- How many years of education have you completed?
- Describe yourself as a young adult.
- Did you attend any school or training after high school? If so, what was your field of study?
- Do you have a college degree(s)?
- As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- What was your first job?
- How did you decide on a career?
- What jobs have you had?
- Did you make enough money to live comfortably?

- How long did you have to work each day at your job?
- How old were you when you retired? Or when do you want to retire, or will you be able to retire?
- If you served in the military, when and where did you serve, and what were your duties?  
Rank?
- Were you ever injured in the line of duty?
- How old were you when you started dating?
- Do you remember your first date? Could you tell me something about it?
- When, where and how did you first meet your present spouse?
- Do you remember where you went on the first date with your spouse?
- How long did you know him/her before you got married?
- Describe your wedding proposal.
- Where and when did you get married? (Include date, place, church, etc.)
- Describe your wedding ceremony.
- Who was there? Were there a best man, a bridesmaid, other wedding party members and who were they?
- Did you have a honeymoon? Where did you go?
- Were you married more than once? If so, answer the previous questions about each spouse.
- How would you describe your spouse(s)?
- What do (did) you admire most about them?
- How long have you been, or were you married?
- When and where did your spouse die?
- What advice would you give/did you give to your child or grandchild on his/her wedding day?
- How did you find out you were going to be a parent for the first time?
- How many children did you have altogether?
- What were their names, birth dates and birthplaces?
- Why did you give them the names that you did?
- Do you remember anything your children did when they were small that really amazed you?
- What is one of the most unusual things one of your children regularly did when they were small?
- What was the funniest thing you can remember that one of your children said or did?
- If you had to do it all over again, would you change how you raised your family?
- What did you find most difficult about raising children?
- What did you find most rewarding about being a parent?
- Did you spoil any of your children?
- Were you strict or lenient as a parent?
- Did you find you had to treat each of your children differently? If so, why?
- How did you feel when the first of your children went to school for the first time?
- How did you first hear that you were a grandparent, and how did you feel about it?
- What advice do you have for your children and grandchildren about being a parent?
- Where did your spouse's parents live?
- When and where did your parents die? What do you remember about it?
- How did they die? Where were they hospitalised and buried?
- What do you remember about the death of your spouse's parents?
- Do you remember hearing your grandparents describe their lives? What did they say?
- Do you remember your great-grandparents?
- Who was the oldest person you remember as a child?
- Did you have any childhood diseases?

- Do you have any health problems that are considered hereditary?
- What do you do regularly for exercise?
- Do you have any bad habits now or in the past?
- Have you ever been the victim of a crime?
- Have you ever been in a serious accident?
- Has anyone ever saved your life?
- Have you ever been hospitalised? If so, what for?
- Have you ever had surgery?
- What would you consider the most important inventions during your lifetime?
- Do you remember the first time you saw a television, a car, a refrigerator?
- How is the world different from what it was like when you were a child?
- Do you remember your family discussing world events and politics?
- How would you describe yourself politically? Are you conservative or liberal, and why?
- Do you remember what you or your parents thought about income tax when it began in 1913?
- Do you remember anything about the days of Prohibition?
- How did the Depression affect you?
- What U.S. president have you admired the most and why?
- What did you think of President Franklin D. Roosevelt? How did you react to his death?
- How did you react to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?
- What wars have been fought during your lifetime?
- What were you doing when you heard the news of the Pearl Harbor bombing?
- How did World War II affect you?
- How did the Korean War affect you?
- How did the Vietnam War affect you?
- Name a good friend you have known the longest. How many years have you been friends?
- Has there ever been anyone in your life you would consider a kindred spirit or soul mate?  
Who was he/she, and why did you feel a special bond with him/her?
- What were the hardest choices you ever had to make?
- What person really changed the course of your life by something he/she did?
- Do you remember any advice or comments that had a big impact on how you lived your life?
- If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?
- What was the most stressful experience you ever lived through?
- What is the scariest thing that ever happened to you?
- What kinds of musical instruments have you learned to play?