

This interview guide is designed to help you have a meaningful conversation with a family member and learn more about your family's history, experiences, and Jewish identity.

Interview Guidelines

- Make eye contact and look at your interviewee when they are talking.
- Do not interrupt the interviewee when they are speaking. Let them finish answering before asking another question.
- If the interviewee says something interesting that you want to ask about, you can ask follow-up questions that are not listed below.
- Use a notepad to take notes and to write down other questions you want to ask.
- It is recommended to bring a recording device (telephone) to record the interview. Remember to ask the interviewee for permission and to check whether they prefer a voice or video recording.
- The interview should last around 30 minutes.

Interview Questions

You do not need to ask all of the questions. Before you begin the interview, choose which questions you want to ask. Remember to ask questions about various topics to get the full story.

Immigration

- Where was our family originally from?
- When did our family come to this country?
- Why did they leave their original country?
- How did the family feel about leaving their original country?
- How did they get to this country, and what challenges did they face during the journey?
- What challenges did they face when they arrived?
- Did the family change their name? Why?
- Did they bring anything special with them?

Growing Up

- Where did you grow up?
- What was your home like?
- What was a typical day for you growing up? (e.g., school, hobbies, chores, etc.)
- What is your strongest childhood memory?
- What challenges did you face while growing up?
- How was your childhood different from mine?
- How would you describe your Jewish identity growing up?
- How did you meet your spouse?

The Jewish Community

- What was it like growing up in your Jewish community?
- How did you celebrate Shabbat and holidays?
- Did you go to a Jewish school or a Sunday school?
- How has Jewish life changed in the community since you were young?
- What traditions have stayed the same?

History and Culture

- What major historical event do you remember from your childhood?
- Where were you when you heard about the event? How did it affect your life? How did it affect the Jewish community?

Lessons Learned

- What lesson did you learn from your parents that is important for you to pass down to me?
- What are you most proud of?
- How has your Jewish identity evolved and changed throughout your life?