

# RECORDING YOUR FAMILY STORIES

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## Questions to consider when planning:

What do you want out of the interview?

Who are you interviewing?

Where are you interviewing?

What format do you want to use?

How do you want to use the interview?

## Other Items to consider:

Privacy Issues

Emotional Events

Family Secrets

Memory Problems

Physical Accommodations

## Ways to Draw People Out:

Open Ended Questions – What, Where, Why

Leading and Follow-up Questions – Tell me more about.....

Refer to Items – Photos, Objects

Traditions – Foods, Holidays

Names – Naming Practices, Family Trees

Reflective Questions – What do you want to be remembered by?

## Key Issues to Remember:

Research and Prepare for the Interview

Prepare and Test Your Technology

Center your Interviewee (it is not your interview)

Be Flexible and Spontaneous

Preserve Your Interview

Oral History Interviews are Important Genealogy Tools

# RESOURCES

## How-To Interview Resources

Matt Wright, "Bring a Family Story to Life with Oral Histories," *Family Search*, 25 Apr 2016  
<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/bring-family-story-life-oral-histories/>

"Conducting Oral Histories with Family Members," *UCLA Library, Center for Oral History Research*  
<https://www.library.ucla.edu/destination/center-oral-history-research/resources/conducting-oral-histories-family-members>

"Creating Oral Histories," FamilySearch Research Wiki, *FamilySearch*, last edited 29 Oct 2017  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Creating\\_Oral\\_Histories](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Creating_Oral_Histories)

Lynn Bonsey, "How to Make a Family History Trivia Game," *Family Tree Magazine*, June 2020  
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/projects/not-so-trivial-pursuit/>

Organizing Oral History Information: You Have the Stories...Now What? What to do with all Those Great Stories," *Genealogy.com*  
[https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/70\\_afteroral.html](https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/70_afteroral.html)

## Questions Idea Resources

"Get Nosy with Aunt Rosie: Examples Questions for Oral Histories; Fertilizing Your Family Tree with Conversations," *Genealogy.com*  
[https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/70\\_tipsoral.html](https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/70_tipsoral.html)

"The Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide: Some Possible Questions" *Smithsonian Institution*  
<https://folklife.si.edu/the-smithsonian-folklife-and-oral-history-interviewing-guide/some-possible-questions/smithsonian>

"Family History Sample Outline and Questions" *UCLA Library, Center for Oral History Research*  
[http://oralhistory.library.ucla.edu/pages/family\\_history](http://oralhistory.library.ucla.edu/pages/family_history)

"Great Questions" *StoryCorps*  
<https://storycorps.org/participate/great-questions/>

## Remote/Virtual Interviewing Resources

"Remote Interviewing" *UC Berkeley Oral History Center*  
<https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library/oral-history-center/remote-interviewing>

"Remote Interviewing Resources" *Oral History Association*, 27 Aug 2020  
<https://www.oralhistory.org/remote-interviewing-resources/>

"Oral History at a Distance: Conducting Remote Interview" *Oral History Association*, 31 Mar 2020  
<https://www.oralhistory.org/2020/03/26/webinar-oral-history-at-a-distance-conducting-remote-interviews/>

"Family Gathering Zoom Classes" *Vivid-Pix*  
<https://www.vivid-pix.com/zoom-classes>