



**Personal History Questions  
for Video Interviews  
Compiled by Don & Peggy Doman  
PNW Video Productions**

**[www.pnwvideo.com](http://www.pnwvideo.com)**

**253-759-6639 – [trainingmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:trainingmedia@yahoo.com)**

We provide complete professional on location video production with wireless microphones, digital video cameras, computer editing, and distribution via DVD, thumbdrive, or ScanDisk. Also, we include a transcription of the entire interview for editing and sharing.

## **Your Childhood**

What is your full name?

Who are you named after? Why?

Did you have a nickname as you were growing up?

If you did, what was it and why did they call you that?

Have you had other nicknames as an adult?

What do family members call you now?

Where were you born and when?

Do you remember hearing your grandparents describe their lives? What did they say?

Do you remember your great~grandparents? What do you know about them?

Who was the oldest person you can remember in your family as a child?

What do you remember about them?

Do you remember your family discussing world events and politics?

Was there a chore you really hated doing as a child?

What would you consider to be the most important inventions that have been made during your lifetime?

How is the world now different from what it was like when you were a child?

What kinds of books did you like to read?

Do you remember having a favorite nursery rhyme or bedtime story? What was it?

Do you ever remember not having enough food to eat because times were hard for your family?

What were your favorite toys and what were they like?

What were your favorite childhood games?

What were your schools like?

How did you get to school?

What was your favorite subject in school and why?

What subject in school was always the easiest for you?

What was your least favorite subject in school and why?

How do your fellow classmates from school remember you best?

What school activities and sports did you participate in?

Did you and your friends have a special hang-out where you liked to spend time?

Did you belong to any childhood groups or organizations?

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?  
Do you have a college degree? If so, what was your field of study?  
Did you get good grades?  
Did you like school?  
What did you like the most and the least about it?  
What did you usually wear to school? Describe it.  
Were there any fads during your youth that you remember?  
What was your childhood home like? Your neighborhood?  
Was your parents' relationship a strong one?  
Which of them were you closer to?  
When you were growing up, what was the biggest disagreement you ever had with your parents?  
What was your role in the family?  
What were your siblings like back then, and how did you get along with them?  
Other than family, who were the most important people in your life when you were growing up?  
What were the happiest times of your childhood?  
What were your biggest disappointments?  
What were your hobbies as a kid?

**Notes:**

## **Your Loves/Romances**

Who was the first person you ever kissed?  
Tell me about your first serious romance.  
When you were a kid, what did you imagine your adult life would be like?  
How old were you when you started dating?

Do you remember your first date? Describe the circumstances.  
Name a good friend that you have known for the longest period of time?  
How many years have you been friends?  
Has there ever been anyone in your life that you would consider to be your kindred spirit or soul mate?  
If so, who were they and why did you feel a special bond to them?

**Notes:**

## **Your Work/Career**

What was your first job, and how did you get it?  
How did you decide what field to enter?  
Did your parents influence your approach to work or your choice of career?  
Was money a big factor for you?  
Was there one person—a mentor, maybe—who had a big impact on your working life?  
Is there anything you think is absolutely crucial to success at work?  
What was the best job you ever had? The worst?  
When you were a kid, what did you imagine your adult life would be like?  
Did your career have any major turning points?  
What were the best moments of your working life? Any lingering regrets?  
On balance, how did you like your chosen field?  
If you had it all to do over again, would you choose the same path?

**Notes:**

## **Love and Family**

How did you meet the person that you would later marry? Describe them?  
Do you remember where you went on the first date with your spouse?  
How long did you know them before you got married?  
Describe your wedding proposal.

When and where did you get married?  
Describe your wedding ceremony. Who was there?  
Did you have a honeymoon? If so, where did you go?  
How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?  
How long have you been married (or were you married)? What wise advice would you give to a grandchild on their wedding day?  
How did you find out that you were going to be a parent for the first time?  
When did you decide to have children?  
Over the years, what was the most rewarding thing about raising kids? The toughest?  
What do you remember as the best times you had as a family?  
Which family vacation was your favorite?  
What was the worst thing you went through with your family?  
Did you dream about doing anything special once I'd/we'd all grown up?  
What are the secrets to a good relationship or marriage?  
Do you have any advice about being a good parent?  
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? How?  
Were you a strict or lenient parent?  
Is there anything you'd do differently as a mother/father now?  
Would you try to do anything differently as a spouse?  
What would you say love is? Have your ideas about it changed over time?  
Now that you're all adults, what are your relationships like with your siblings?  
How are you like your parents? How are you different?  
Who in the family is most like you?  
What have you always regretted not asking your parents?

**Notes:**

## **You and Me**

Is there anything you've never been able to ask me or say to me?  
In what ways do you think we're similar? In what ways different?  
What were your favorite times with me?  
Is our relationship anything like the one you had with your parents?

Are you happy with the way you and I get along?  
Is there anything you wish had been different between us? That you'd still like to change?

**Notes:**

## **Just About You**

Who knows you better than anyone?  
Other than family, who are the most important people in your life right now?  
What's the key to a great friendship?  
Who makes you laugh the hardest?  
Do you have a favorite book or author? A favorite movie?  
What was the best trip you ever took?  
The most amazing place you've seen?  
If you could go somewhere you've never been, where would it be?  
Would you rather be living somewhere else?  
What are five things you couldn't live without?  
What's your most beloved personal possession?  
What groups or organizations have you belonged to?  
Have you won any awards?  
Have you done anything to improve your community?  
What are you really proud of accomplishing?  
What's the bravest thing you've ever done? The scariest? The dumbest?  
Is there anything you always wanted to do but never did?  
What would I be surprised to learn about you?

**Notes:**

## **Your Kinda Life**

What were the best years of your life?  
What was the hardest decision you've made?  
What are the most important things in life?  
What do you consider to be your strongest character traits?

What traits or habits do you wish you didn't have?  
Do you believe that people can change?  
Do you believe in God?  
Has life made you more cynical or more hopeful?  
What do you consider to be the most important world events of your lifetime?  
Do you think life now is harder or easier than when you were young?  
If you could do anything over in your life, what would it be, and what would you do differently?  
What are you most proud of?  
What do you hope to be remembered for?  
Do you believe in an after life?  
What was the most stressful experience that you ever lived through? What helped you get through it?  
What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you personally?  
What kinds of musical instrument(s) have you learned to play?  
Would you consider yourself creative?  
What things have you made that others have enjoyed?  
How would you describe your sense of humor?  
What is the funniest practical joke you ever played on anyone?  
What activities have you especially enjoyed as an adult?  
What are/were your hobbies?  
What did you like to do when you were not working?  
What is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you?  
What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?  
Have you ever met any famous people? Describe what happened.  
What organizations and groups have you belonged to?  
Have you ever won any special awards or prizes as an adult? What were they for?  
Describe a time and place when you remember feeling truly at peace and happy to be alive.  
Where were you and what were you doing?  
What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited and what was it like?  
What is the longest trip that you have ever gone on? Where did you go?  
What has been your favorite vacation? Where did you go and why was it special?  
What was the favorite place you ever visited and what was it like?  
What pets have you had?  
Do you have a favorite story about a pet? What is it?  
Is there anything you have always wanted to do, but haven't?

**Notes:**

## **A Few of Your Favorite Things**

What is your favorite style of music?

What is your favorite musical instrument?

Who is your favorite musical group?

What is your favorite song?

Who is your favorite singer?  
Who is your favorite movie star?  
What is your favorite movie?  
Who is your favorite artist?  
What is your favorite painting?  
Who is your favorite poet?  
What is your favorite poem?  
What is your favorite TV program?  
Who is your favorite author?  
What is your favorite book?  
What is your favorite season?  
What is your favorite tree?  
What is your favorite flower?  
What is your favorite holiday?  
What is your favorite color?  
What is your favorite sport?  
What is your favorite meal?  
What is your favorite fruit?  
What is your favorite vegetable?  
What is your favorite candy?  
What is your favorite cookie?  
What is your favorite drink?  
What is your favorite restaurant?  
What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?  
What is your favorite board game?  
What is your favorite card game?

**Notes:**

**Of your family and close friends, who would best fit the following descriptions?**

The best cook;  
The hardest-worker;  
The quietest;

The best memory;  
The best gardener;  
The funniest;  
The best-looking;  
The animal lover;  
The most politically-active;  
The most mischievous;  
The calmest;  
The most athletic;  
The most intelligent;  
The most educated;  
The best career;  
The most creative;  
The wildest lifestyle;  
The most sociable;  
The biggest tease;  
The best housekeeper;  
The most reclusive;  
The most colorful;  
The most relaxed;  
The most frugal;  
The most generous;  
The tallest;  
The shortest;  
The best storyteller .

**Notes:**

## **A Few Last Questions**

Is there anything else you would like to add?

What are you doing tomorrow?

Give an example of what you would call a perfect day.

**Notes:**