

Name _____

Person(s) Interviewed _____

Relationship to Me _____

Family Interview

Dear Family Members:

In the course called the Heroic Journey, the students are learning a great deal about themselves so they can make good decisions as they make their journeys to adulthood. One of the ways you can assist them on this journey is by helping them understand more about their own history and that of their families. This activity will help our children gain a clearer understanding of their family background and the people who have had a significant impact on their families' histories. They will also have the opportunity to learn more about one another so they can better appreciate their similarities and differences. This is a valuable skill in learning how to get along with others in the world.

As an important adult in this child's life, your contributions are greatly appreciated. Please respond to as many questions as you feel are appropriate for you, and of course, feel free to skip any that you'd rather not answer. If you'd like, please share other family stories or information that you think might be interesting for your child. Thank you very much for participating and helping in this lesson.

Questions for My Parents or Other Significant Adults in My Life

1. Where and when were you born?
2. Please tell me what you can about our family's cultural background in the time of my grandparents or great-grandparents. (Examples: language, nationality, religion, and so forth.)
3. Please tell me what you can about the members of our family who first settled in this country. Who, when, where, what did they do?
4. How many brothers and sisters did you have? Were you the youngest, middle, oldest, or only child? How did you feel about being in that position?

5. What do you remember about your family when you were growing up? (Examples: holidays, chores, good times, difficult times, pets, where you lived, etc.)
6. Did you go to school? For how long? How did you feel about school?
7. What was one major decision you made that made a big difference in your life? How did you arrive at that decision? How did you feel about the results?
8. What people were helpful to you or your family when you were younger? How?
9. What people or events were harmful or created problems for you or your family? How? (Examples: mean boss, segregationists, particular neighbors or family members, the Depression, war, etc.)
10. Who was one of your friends? What do you think are the most important qualities of a good friend?
11. What kinds of jobs have you held in the past? What do you do now?
12. What dreams or plans do you have for your future?
13. Where and when was I born?
14. What relatives were very important to me when I was little?

15. What family activities were especially fun for me (for example: vacations, games, special holidays, chores, pets, etc.)? Please describe them.

16. What schools did I attend? What do you remember as one of my best school happenings?

17. What was a difficult experience I once had?

18. What people were especially helpful to me as I was growing up? How?

19. Were there any people who were harmful to me or who created problems for me? How?

20. What else do you remember about my early life?

21. (Ask other questions that interest you):

22. (Ask if the person you are interviewing has any other comments to make about his or her life or the family history):