

Making connections with... ELDER INTERVIEWS

Several years ago, Story Corp created an app to help record and share oral history. We heard about this idea and decide to put our own Seven Hills spin on it and add it to the Coming of Age process for seventh grade students. We realize our boys would benefit from hearing what our elders have to say.

Our goal is to have each **seventh grade** student sit down with an elder that they value in their life (it can be a family member or friend) and to learn and connect. Ideally this person should be over the age of 65 to add a unique perspective. Students are asked to record their interviews. This can be done on a smart phone, tablet, camera, or any electronic device that records video with audio. If you do not have one and need to borrow one please let Ms. Andres know.

INTERVIEW DAY

Read instructions before beginning.

- Prepare your Open-Ended questions in advance, but be ready to ask follow-up questions and go “off script” if you hear something interesting. You’ll pick 14 questions from the list of 21.
- Try to find a quiet place to conduct your interview.
- Ask your partner for permission to record them before you start.
- Begin your recording by introducing yourself and ask your partner to introduce themselves. **State the location, date, and year where and when you are conducting the interview** (e.g. Today is November 24, 2017 and we are in Grandpa’s living room in Lexington, KY.).
- Ask all 14 questions, elaborate when needed and leave time, have patience.
- **Finish the interview with this last question.**
 - Thinking about future generations, and knowing that they may hear this recording, is there wisdom or advice you would like to share with them?
- Make sure you listen to your interview when you are done.
- Send a copy to Ms. Andres: tandres@7hillsschool.org
- Due by Thursday, December 5th, if you get it in by November 25th small amount of science extra credit will be awarded.

Student signature acknowledging project _____

Parent signature acknowledging project _____

Questions

Circle the questions you are going to use, and/ or write your own open-ended questions at the bottom. Record the interview.

1. When and where were you born?
2. Tell me about the person who has had the greatest influence on your life.
What lessons did they teach you?
3. What did you do during the summertime?
4. What was your favorite thing to do after school?
5. What were you most afraid of as a child?
6. What have you accomplished so far—personally and professionally—that makes you proudest?
Why?
7. In middle school, who was your best friend? Are you still in touch with them?
8. What was your favorite music/band/dance in high school?
9. Did you attend college? If so, which one? If not, why?
10. Did you like going to school? Why/why not?
11. What jobs did you have when you were a teenager? What did you do with the money you earned?
12. If you could go back and relive your teenage years, would you? Why/why not?
13. Has your life been different from what you imagined as a teenager?
14. Were you ever in the military? If so, when and where?
15. What does the word “family” mean to you?
16. In what ways have your parents influenced you the most?
17. What was the most special way you’ve shown someone that you loved them?
18. What do you consider to be the most significant political event that has occurred during your life?
19. What is your definition of “happiness”?
20. What is your most memorable travel experience?
21. What place does religion have in your life?

Mr. Teal will provide an extra-credit opportunity in Language Arts to any student who transcribes (writes out) a 2-minute portion of their interview. The student should select a portion of the interview that is particularly meaningful to them and carefully write out the exact words used in that portion. The transcription should include notes in parentheses that tell if the interviewer or the person being interviewed laughs or cries or if anything else noteworthy happens in the interview (examples would include if the person being interviewed smiles really big when asked a question, or if the person being interviewed pauses for several seconds before answering a question, or anything else that helps convey the tone of the interview).