

Family Interview Project

Purpose: Throughout the 1st marking period students in ESOL will be writing about themselves and the experiences that are important to them. Family is an important part of their lives. The purpose of this project is so that the students can learn more about their family/close friends. I hope the project is an enjoyable way to involve the students' family or close friends in their ESOL class. For that reason, students have a choice as to whether they want to speak with their family/friend in English or another language. The final written part of the interview however, must be written in English.

Directions:

- Students will choose **at least 10 questions** from a list and use them to interview an older family member or close friend. You are welcome to do more than 10 questions.
- Students must pick someone who is close in age to their parent/guardians or grandparents. They may not pick a friend or family member who is their age. If it is not possible to interview a relative, students may select a close trusted neighbor or community member. Students are also permitted skype or use a webcam if they wish to interview a family member in another country.
- The students must have permission from their parent/guardian and the person they have chosen to interview.
- The interview may be conducted in any language but the written answers to the questions must be in English. For this reason, students are encouraged to audio record the interviews, using a smart phone or tablet. Of course, they must have the permission of the person they are interviewing to do this. The students are **not** permitted to post the interviews on the internet or any public space. This information is **only** for school use and will not be shared outside of school.
- Students must translate the written interview questions in English. No one will be available to translate interview documents. It is the students' responsibility to translate the interview questions into English. The only exception to this rule is if a student is a newcomer and they are just learning English. If that is the case they will work with someone at school who also speaks that first language for assistance.
- Remember, this interview counts as a major ESOL grade and also towards their regular Writing class grade.
- Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Please give the 10 questions and answers to Ms Maher by: _____

Best wishes and I hope you enjoy this interview project! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Ms. Maher

Directions: Choose at least 10 questions to ask a family member or close family friends.

What year were you born? On what date? What day of the week was it? Did your parents tell you anything about the day you were born?

Why were you given the first (and middle) name(s) that you have? What's your first, most vivid memory? What was the apartment or house like that you grew up in? How many bedrooms did it have?

Bathrooms? What was your bedroom like?

Who was more strict: your mother or your father? Do you have a vivid memory of something you did that you were disciplined for?

Did you have any pets? What were you like as a child? What did you like to eat? What did you do for fun?

What were your favorite toys or games? Did you ever have a secret place or a favorite hiding spot? What did you wear?

What responsibilities did you have at home when you were young? What kind of school did you go to? Were you a good student? What was your favorite subject? Least favorite?

Who were your friends? Who was your favorite teacher and why? Did you have any heroes or role models when you were a child? How did you spend your summer holidays? What were your favorite summer activities?

What was the best gift you remember receiving as a child? What did you want to be when you grew up? What big world events do you remember from the time you were growing up?

What inventions do you most remember? What's different about growing up today from when you were growing up? When you were a teenager, what did you do for fun? Did you have a favorite spot to "hang out"?

What dreams and goals did you have for your life when you graduated?

Do you know the meaning of your family name? Are there stories about the origins of your family name? Have you ever had any nicknames as a child or as an adult? Where did they come from? How are you like your mother? Unlike her? How are you like your father? Unlike him? What was most important to your parents?

Do you have any special sayings or expressions? What's your favorite book and why? What's your favorite movie and why? Who are three people in history you admire most and why? What have been the three biggest news events during your lifetime and why? If you could travel into the future, would you rather see something that specifically relates to you, or something that relates to the future of the country in general? Why? If you could have three wishes, what would they be? If you won \$1 million tomorrow, what would you do with the money?

What's the best compliment you ever received?

What is your most cherished family tradition? Why is it important? What have you liked best about your life so far? What's your happiest or proudest moment? What do you feel have been the important successes in your life? The frustrations?

How do you define a "good life" or a "successful life"?