

What follows are questions that may help shape your interview. You certainly do not need to address all— or even any— of the following questions. These are meant to inspire or suggest possible directions that your interview might take. The questions may be understood to pertain to the following domains:

- Chronology
- Values
- Wisdom
- Familial/National/Global/Cosmic Vision

Chronology:

1. Can you describe the time and place of, and circumstances under which, your life began?
2. Who were your parents/caregivers as a child? Can you say what you remember best about them?
3. What is your earliest memory?
4. Can you talk about childhood experiences that stand out in your memories?
5. Were any of these experiences life-changing? Were there experiences, for example, that helped to define you as a person? (relationally, academically, professionally, etc.)

Values:

1. What is most important to you?
2. What were the influences that shaped your way of looking at things? (persons, traditions, experiences, etc.)
3. Do you believe that there are universal values (that is, values that should be accepted by everyone even if they are not currently accepted by everyone)? What are they?
4. What makes you think the way you do?
5. What does it mean for a human being to flourish?
6. For what in your life are you most grateful?

Wisdom:

1. What does it mean for a person to have wisdom? Is wisdom something innate or acquired? How is it acquired?
2. What wisdom do you think you have now that you did not have as a younger person?
3. If you could live your life again, would you have done any part of it differently? Do you want to elaborate on your answer?
4. There may be people who were/are important to you but—for various reasons—you have not communicated with them as you would have liked? What would you like to tell these people now?
5. What advice would you give a younger person who wants to live their life well?

Familial/National/Global/Cosmic Vision:

1. When you imagine the future of your family/country/ the world/ the human race, what do you see?
2. On what does the continuation and flourishing of future generations most depend?
3. If you could have one power to bring about positive change in the world, what would it be?
4. We sometimes talk about the importance of hope. What gives you hope for the future?