



GET READY FOR YOUR POSTERITY PROJECT INTERVIEW

A Posterity Project interview is 30 minutes of meaningful conversation with a friend or loved one. While one of you will take the lead in asking questions, the interview is a shared experience and both of your voices are important.

The Posterity Project is organized by [Story House Ithaca](#) and designed using the [StoryCorps DIY](#) toolkit. [Learn more about StoryCorps here.](#)

WHAT TO DO IN THE DAYS BEFORE

Talk with your partner about what you would like to discuss in the interview. It is important that you are both comfortable with the overall plan.

There's no secret formula for how to conduct a great interview, but a little preparation helps a lot. Is there a burning question you want to answer? Is there something about your loved one that you think the world needs to know? Do you want them to describe a particular moment or explain why they did something they did? Write out a list of questions in advance – then be prepared to go where your conversation takes you.

[You can find many great sample questions here.](#)

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU GET THERE

1. WELCOME: The facilitator will provide some background information about The Posterity Project, explain their role, and answer any questions you might have.
2. SIGN-IN: The facilitator will write your names, ages, and relationship to one another.
3. SOUND CHECK: The facilitator will check the audio, make sure you're positioned well, and ask you to record your names, the date, and the place where you are recording.
4. INTERVIEW: Use your prepared question list, but remember that the questions are just suggestions to get you started. Sometimes your storyteller will need "permission" to go

deeper; you can simply say “Tell me more.” Don’t worry about skipping questions or changing the order. When you hear something that moves you, ask more questions. Real moments are the best moments.

Some tips for helping the conversation flow:

- Look at your storyteller’s eyes, not the microphone.
- Don’t be afraid to ask emotional questions like “how does this make you feel?” Those often elicit the most thoughtful responses.
- Open-ended questions (“Then what happened?” or “What did it look like?”) bring out more revealing answers than questions that can be answered with a yes or no.
- Be curious and honest and keep an open heart. Great things will happen!

While you and your partner talk, the facilitator will take notes, keep time, and monitor audio. Facilitators are not interviewers, but they may ask a question during the recording.

5. RELEASE OPTIONS: The facilitator will explain the release form. You may choose to:

1. Allow Story House Ithaca to keep a copy of your recording and post it or excerpts on storyhouseithaca.org.
2. Allow WRFI Community Radio to play excerpts of your recording on the radio and post them on wrfi.org.
3. Allow Story House Ithaca to send a copy of your recording to the StoryCorps archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the largest collection of human voices ever assembled
4. None of the above. You will receive a copy of the interview for your own personal use, and we will not share it

6. PHOTOS: Finally, the facilitator will take photos of you and your interview partner, both together and separately. If you choose to have your interview archived at the American Folklife Center, the photo will be uploaded there as well.

7. DIGITAL DOWNLOAD: A few days after the session is over, Story House Ithaca will make a digital copy available to you at no cost.

