



Think of 10-15 questions to ask your interviewee. Write the questions in the space provided and bring this worksheet with you to your interview.

Tips for Developing Questions

- Pick a few themes (such as growing food, childhood and family experiences, or garden design) and develop questions around those themes.
- Avoid “yes or no” questions. Questions should be open-ended and encourage the interviewee to tell stories. Questions starting with ‘why,’ ‘how,’ or ‘what’ are often useful in teasing out parts of a garden story.

Tips for Interviewing

- Know your interviewee! Make sure you have their name correct and have done some research.
- The interview should feel like a conversation. It is okay to skip around between questions or ask different questions.
- Sometimes the best question is “Can you tell me more?”
- If your interviewee has paused, allow them to gather their thoughts instead of rushing ahead with the next question. They might be about to say something interesting.

The Interview:

If you are recording your interview, begin it with the following dialogue:

- My name is *(your name)*. I am here with *(interviewee’s name)* on *(date)* at *(place)* to interview them about gardening.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

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10.

11.

Your Name: _____

Who are you going to interview?

When and where will you be interviewing this person?

Interview a Gardener: Interview Planning Worksheet



Smithsonian Gardens

12.

13.

14.

15.

Notes: