

Life Text
Parent/ Guardian Interview

Central Question: What is the value of learning?

We have spent some time reading what others have said about education; now it is time to explore your parent or guardian's view. For this assignment you will interview your parent or guardian. The purpose of this assignment is to gain a deeper understanding of your parent or guardian's experience with and attitude toward education. I wonder what you will discover?

Learning Outcomes:

1. Prepare clear, open-ended questions.
2. Listen to the person you are interviewing and record what he or she says, thinks, and believes.
3. Effectively organize and incorporate ideas from the interview into a written piece.
4. Use details and descriptions as you narrate your interview.
5. Incorporate quotations from the person you have interviewed.
6. Develop an essay that is free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Part 1: The Interview

Requirements:

- Your interview must have ten questions.
- You need to record your parent or guardian's answers.
- During the interview, watch how your parent or guardian responds to the questions. Take notes on subtle and more overt behaviors.
- On a separate sheet of paper recreate and complete **Table 1a**. Each of the ten questions should have three parts: (1) the question; (2) the answer; and (3) observations and or descriptions of interviewee's behavior. **Table 1b** offers an example of the work you are being asked to do.

Prepare Questions:

- Ask open-ended questions (we want more than "yes" or "no" answers).
- Develop questions that are clearly worded and easily understood.
- Prepare questions that are directly related to your topic and purpose.

During the Interview:

- Interview your parent in a comfortable place.
- Remain sensitive throughout the interview process.
- Look at your parent when asking him or her a question and pay special attention to his or her answer.
- Seek to understand their experience and do not pass judgment.

The Glencoe anthology offers a writing workshop for this assignment on page 616 in Course 5. They also offer a student sample on page R116.

Template

Question:	Observations/ descriptions:
Answer:	

Table 1a

Example

Sample question to parent: <i>How has education changed/ shaped your life?</i>	Observations/ descriptions: <i>My mother answered this question without hesitation. She looked into my eyes and never looked away. I felt as though she was giving me advice for my future.</i>
Sample Answer: <i>Education has opened many doors for me. Had I not received my degree, I wouldn't have been able to do what I am most passionate about, teach young children.</i>	

Table 1b

Part 2: Writing the Essay

After the interview, present the information you have gathered in a way that will make it understandable and interesting to your readers. You can use chronological order to present a narrative of the interview itself, or you can arrange the information in order of importance. The observations that you made during the interview should be used to narrate between questions.

Requirements:

- Write a multi-paragraph, 1 ½ - 2 page paper
- Introduce...
 - the topic (education)
 - the purpose of the interview
 - the person you interviewed
 - your relationship to the person you interviewed
- Incorporate a minimum of five direct comments from your interview.
- Rewrite your interview questions as statements so that you do not have to quote them in your paper.
- Quote and represent ideas accurately.
- Use your observations and descriptions to help narrate the interview.
- Summarize your subject's main points and share with your readers what you learned from the interview.