

Oral Interview Sample Questions for Immigrant or Migrant Histories

1. Interviewee's name (full name if possible), age, gender
2. Relationship to the interviewer (student)
3. When and where were you born?
4. Where were your parents born? When did your parents come to this country (*if immigrants*) or area (*if migrants*), and what did they do?
5. Describe your childhood. What events or things do you remember about your home?
6. What values did your parents stress? What were your parents' expectations of you?
7. What are your first memories of the United States/this neighborhood?
8. (If applicable) Did you have problems adjusting to life in a new country? Give examples.
9. Where did you go to school? Did you go to college? What did you study?
10. Did you marry? Whom did you marry? How did you meet? How did you decide to marry?
11. What jobs have you held? What did you enjoy and what did you hate about each of your jobs?
12. Have you experienced unfair treatment? What happened and why do you think it happened?
13. Did or do you participate in any community events or organizations? Describe your participation and experiences.
14. What historic events have had an impact on your life? How?
15. What have you come to value most in life? How did you come to hold these values?
16. What goals do you have for yourself?
17. (If applicable) Have your views about living in the United States changed at all? If so, how?
18. What do you see as the best or happiest time in your life?

(adapted from the Wing Luke Asian Museum list of oral history questions)