

Interview Guidelines

Notes for student: The bolded part of the top script is what you will say WORD FOR WORD to the person. Please be sure you start recording before you read because it should be included on the audio.

In the actual questions, the ones that are bolded are REQUIRED to be asked. However, your interviewee has the right to refuse to answer the question if they do not feel comfortable. Remember, your interview should feel like a conversation with this person and not like you reading a list of questions back to back. If something comes up during the interview that you want to know more about, please feel free to ask more questions about that topic.

Interview Script

Please begin your interview by stating the following: **Thank you so much for taking the time to share your experience with me. Please know that any questions I ask, if you are not comfortable, please feel free to tell me that you would prefer not to answer that question. At no time during this interview will I ask about your immigration status and you are not required to share how you came to the United States. It is completely up to you how much information and what information you share with me. Again, thank you so much for taking the time for this interview and sharing your story.**

Background Questions

- **What is your first name?**
- **How old are you?**
- **What is your country of origin (home country)?**
- **How many years have you been in the United States?**

Feel free to ask any other questions you might have (maybe about their family structure, their job, etc.).

Experience

- **How long did you have to plan before you came to the United States?**
- **Did you come alone or with someone else?**
- **Why did you decide to move to the United States?**
- **Did you ever hesitate or want to change your mind about moving to the United States?**
- **What was the scariest thing about moving to the United States?**
- **What was the first thing you did when you got to the United States?**

Feel free to ask any other questions you might have.

Expectations of the United States

- **Before you came to the United States, what idea/ image did you have in your mind about what the United States was like?**
- **What was your plan once you arrived in the United States (both for your personal life and for work/ school)**
- **What was the most surprising thing when you got here?**

Feel free to ask any other questions you might have.

Reality of the United States

- **What is a struggle you have here in the United States that you didn't have in your home country?**
- **What was something that positively surprised you when you arrived in the United States?**
- **Did your experience match your expectations? Why or why not?**
- **What was the most difficult adjustment to life in the United States?**

Feel free to ask any other questions you might have.

Feelings before and after arriving

- **What inspired you to come to the United States?**
- **If you hadn't come to the United States, is there somewhere else you had planned on moving to?**
- **Is there anything you regret about coming to the United States?**
- **Who or what do you miss most about your home country?**
- **Was there anyone in your home country (family or friend) that disagreed with you coming here? How was that experience?**
- **Is there anything else about your experience as an immigrant to the United States that you would like to share?**

Feel free to ask any other questions you might have.