**American Identify Project - Interview Directions**

Pick one or more family members, guardians or other available source to interview. Make sure they have at least 20 minutes to speak with you!

Directions

Remember that thoughtful, "meaty" interviews take a long time to plan. We encourage you to come up with your own questions that are specific to your interviewee. Also, be sure to have a map with you at your interview so your interviewees can use it to tell their stories!!!

Interview Tips

* Be Curious - This is your life and your history; ask questions with an open mind and seek to learn as much as you can.
* Ask for Evidence - If at all possible, ask to see pictures and artifacts from your family’s earlier days in the United States.
* Be Understanding - It’s okay if your interviewee doesn’t know the answer to every question; the goal is to build the best understanding of your family’s past!
* Seek Multiple Sources - Ask your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. to gain the best understanding possible!

American Identity Project Questions Interview Questions

1. What are the origins of your family? What country are your ancestors from?
2. When (the more specific the date, the better!) and how did your family come to the United States? (have them use the map to SHOW you!)
3. What push or pull factors influenced your family to come to the United States? Which had a greater influence – push or pull? (If the interviewee does not know this exactly, you may need to do some historical research to determine this for them based on date and country of origin.)
4. What stories do they have from their immigration experience? Was it a hard or easy trip?
5. Did the United States live up to your family’s expectations? Do they believe their life has improved since they have been here?
6. What does it mean to be American to you and your family? Are you proud to live in the US?
7. What is your family’s “American Dream”? What does your family hope to get from the US in the future? Has your family achieved your "American Dream?"
8. Ask any other related questions.