

The Interview: Step by Step

STEP 1

Welcome (2 min) – The Facilitator will welcome you, explain his or her role, talk to you about the interview process, and answer any questions you may have.



STEP 2

Prep (8 min) – The Facilitator will walk you through the paperwork, which asks for basic personal information such as name, address, and ethnic background.



STEP 3

Sound check (5 min) – Once you and your interview partner are ready to proceed, the Facilitator will make sure you are positioned well for recording and check the audio levels.



STEP 4

The interview (40 min) – Use our Great Questions list to start the conversation, but remember they are just suggestions. Trust your instincts. If something moves you, ask more questions. While you and your partner are talking, the Facilitator will take notes, keep time, and monitor audio.



Facilitators are not interviewers, though they may ask a question during the recording.

STEP 5

CD & release form (4 min) – When the interview is over, the Facilitator will give you a copy of the interview on CD and explain the release form, which allows StoryCorps to keep one copy and send another to



The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

STEP 6

Photos & donations (6 min) – The Facilitator will take photos of you and your interview partner, both together and separately, to be included in the Library of Congress archive. The Facilitator will also ask if you would like to make a voluntary donation. You do not have to donate, but any amount is appreciated and helps StoryCorps provide others with the opportunity to record, preserve, and share their stories.

