**Birth and Childhood**

* What is the meaning of your name? Were you named in honor of another person?
* What's your first memory?
* How did your parents meet?
* How many siblings did you grow up with and what was it like living with them?
* Where was your favorite place to visit when you were a child?
* What did you like to do most when you were a child?
* Where did you go when you wanted to hide?
* Did you have a pet when you were growing up?
* Who was more strict, your mom or dad?

**Home**

* Who lived in your childhood home?
* What were your family meals like?
* Did your house have electricity when you were young?

**School**

* Where did you go to school?
* What were your favorite subjects and why?
* What was your least favorite aspect of school and why?
* Who were your school friends and what did you do together?
* Who were your best teachers?

**Work**

* What was your first job?
* What did you do with your first paycheck?
* How did you decide to pursue your career?
* What was your work day like?
* When did you retire?
* What advice would you offer someone at the start of their career?
* What advice would you offer someone nearing retirement?

**Fun**

* Where did you go on vacations when you were young?
* What were your favorite holidays? Did you have special holiday customs or foods?
* What are your favorite songs? Books? Movies?

**Marriage and Children**

* How did you meet your spouse?
* Where did you go on your first date?
* How (or when) did you know you wanted to marry him or her?
* Tell me about your wedding day.
* Tell me about the day your first child was born
* How did you choose your child(ren)'s name(s)?
* What are your happiest memories of your children?
* What about your children makes you the most proud?

**Values**

* What role has faith played in your life?
* Who are some of your role models?
* Where were you when you heard that President Kennedy was shot? (Add or substitute other historic events, such as the Challenger explosion or the World Trade Center attack.)
* What's your experience with or opionion of television? Computers?
* Tell me about some of the places where you've been the happiest.

<http://www.suite101.com/content/oral-histories-a21004#ixzz1Ul6Lh7oO>

**Immigration:**

(if interviewee is not an immigrant)

* When did the first family member come to America? Where did they come from? How did they get here? Are any family members still abroad?

(if interviewee is an immigrant)

* How has your standard of living changed before and after coming to America? (Sanitation, food, life expectancy)
* How did it feel embarking on the long journey to the U.S.?
* What was your social life with friends like when you first arrived in America?
* Has the language barrier ever been a problem for you at work or with other people?
* First word learned in America?
* Have you ever experienced discrimination? At your first job?
* (if a U.S. citizen) How did it feel to become a U.S. citizen?
* What was your first American purchase?
* What does being an American mean to you?

**Now:**

* What do you think the President should do for the country now?
* What advice would you like to give me?