

*Sample questions based on Sarah J. Tracy's (2012)

Go through the below sample questions and select and/or modify them in order to create a guide/set of questions for your project interview. The number of questions you choose is up to you and should be appropriate for the amount of time you have set aside for the interview. However, a general guide is to include approximately three to four questions for the Opening and Closing and approximately seven or eight Generative questions. Sometimes the number of questions you need to use is dependent on the extent to which the person you are interviewing naturally expands on their answers (e.g., someone who is "longwinded" may need fewer questions). Most important is to ask a wide variety of questions so that you get all the information that you need in order to complete your proposal paper and come up with an act of compassion that is truly going to address the experience of suffering. You will include your interview guide as an appendix in your proposal paper.

How long have you lived in (insert location)? Where are you from?

What do you do with your time?

If you are familiar with the person, take time to catch up, see how they are, etc...

Begin a timeline... i.e. at what age did you [realize you were sick]?

How long has the challenge or struggle been present?

What is your first memory you have of ...?

Walk me through the story of your challenge

Erin K. Willer, Ph.D.

What was life like before [your illness]?

Describe a day in your life

What has been your biggest struggle/challenge? (including both emotional and physical)

o

What is the impact on your relationships?

What has been the impact on your mental and physical health?

What has been the impact on your job/career?

How did your life change after this [event/diagnosis]?

: “when you think about [your illness], what emotions run through you?”

o When thinking about your life in the absence of this event, how is it different?

o If you could change anything about this experience what would you change?

What advice would you give to someone with similar issues?

Tell me about your friends/family/support system

How is this loss similar/different from other experiences?

If you could do anything for a day what would you do? (

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10 years from now, how do you think you will talk about this event with your (future)

kids or others for whom you care?

Erin K. Willer, Ph.D.

What's your future look like to you?

If you are interviewing someone who has experienced any sort of trauma/challenge, you want to be mindful that asking them to talk about those experiences might produce a great deal of anxiety for them. Use your empathy to be aware of how your questions are impacting them. If someone becomes significantly upset, please let me know and we can work together to get them support.

Victim vs. survivor language