

**Before we get started...** Imagine how you would *feel* if I could show you a movie of your favorite grandparent, aunt, uncle or other loved one – or hear *their* parent tell their life story. What stories would you wish to hear? What answers would you seek? Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear their laughter or hear their voice in song? Today you are creating a priceless heirloom by sharing your memories, thoughts, feelings, and beliefs. Years from now, your heirs will learn more than photos or writings can disclose. Your voice is unique, but your expressions and mannerisms may echo on throughout generations. Children yet born may share your looks and traits. This recording can help them stay connected to their roots. I have over 100 questions, but most of them I won't need to ask if you just share your life story. Even the smallest details can be like golden nuggets to your loved ones!

**1- You are the director**

- You are in charge of when we start and stop
- Get comfortable, have water and tissues within reach
- When you are comfortable you just say, "Record"
- But, when you need a break, just show me your "Stop" hand
- If I ask a question you don't want to answer, just show me your "Stop" hand
- Likewise, if you have answered a question that you decide you don't want shared, just put out your hand and say "Take that out". (When I edit, I will look for any spots where your hand is out like a traffic cop and delete that portion.)

**2- Timeframe**

- Each tape holds one hour, but if you need to stop before then... just say "Stop".
- Although you may be willing to continue, I must pause each hour to change the tape.
- If you tire before we are done, we can continue on another day.

**3- Have you gathered any personal items? If not, take a moment to remember special:**

- Photographs, •Photo Albums, •Letters, •Postcards, •Telegrams, •Writings, •Poetry, •Artwork
- News clippings, •Documents, •Awards, •Certificates, •Scrap Books, •Personal A/V Recordings
- Hobby or Craft items, •Collections, •Musical Instruments, •Music Boxes
- Sporting or Game items, •Favorite Clothing or Hats, •Quilts, •Jewelry
- Gifts or Acquisitions, •Mementos or Souvenirs from travels or events

**4- Essay answers are the best**

- When I ask you a question like, "Tell me about when you were 16 years old," you could repeat the question, "What was it like when I was 16?" and ponder it, or just begin your answer with the topic such as, "I remember when I turned 16"
- Your family and friends will enjoy hearing YOU, not me. So, I want to minimize how much I say out loud. I will use my expressions and hands to prompt you to explain or tell me more.

**5- Any questions? Remember to relax, be yourself and have fun!**

**\*Start Audio Recording, Start 1-hour timer, Start Video Recording**

\* Today is \_\_\_\_\_, 2011. My name is.... and I am here at \_\_\_\_\_ in Tampa, Florida  
to interview \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_.

**All of us have had many roles. What other Names have you gone by?**

Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Childhood: \_\_\_\_\_, Nicknames: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aunt/Uncle: \_\_\_\_\_ Married: \_\_\_\_\_, Parent: \_\_\_\_\_, Grandparent: \_\_\_\_\_