

Tuesdays with Morrie Interview

You will interview your own Morrie. This person needs to be someone who has been an influence in your life, someone older and wiser than you. Choose a grandma, aunt, uncle, older cousin, or a non-family member.

Step 1: Choose your Morrie

Name of Person Interviewing _____

Think about the following:

- The person's age (preferably over 25 years old)
- The person's influence in your life
- His/her past experiences (Did he fight in a war? Did she come from another country?)
- Ability to tell interesting stories and give good advice
- Time availability

Step 2: Set up an interview

Ask the person if he/she is willing to be interviewed and tell you stories about his or her life. Set up a specific day and time for the interview. DO NOT wait until the last minute and do a rushed job. You should conduct your interview in person if at all possible. If your interviewee is not in the same location as you, you may choose to do the interview over the phone or video chat

1. Tell your person why you chose him or her, explain what your assignment is
2. Bring a notebook and pen. Be prepared to take notes about how the person looks, how they talk, what they are wearing, their mannerisms, attitude, etc.
3. Have a list of at least TEN good questions to ask.
4. Bring a recording device and record the interview as video or audio so that you can refer to it later.
5. Ask for more details or explanation, if needed

Step 3: Come up with questions:

The topics that Morrie and Mitch discussed in their meetings are listed here. Use some of these topics to guide the questions that you want to ask.

- What makes life worth living
- Feeling Sorry for Yourself
- Regrets
- Death
- Family
- Emotions
- Getting Old
- Money
- Love
- Marriage
- Culture
- Forgiveness
- The Perfect Day

Interview Question Ideas:

1. What are some life experiences that have shaped who you are?
2. What is a difficult lesson in life that you learned?

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3. If you could tell your younger self something, what would it be and why?
4. What is the most important thing in life? Why?
5. What is your definition of a meaningful life?

Take notes during the interview. Write down important information you would want to think back on. Write down specific quotes the person says. Ask them to repeat the phrase to get it just right. These notes can be typed or handwritten, but they must be included in the final product.

Step 4: Write an essay about your person.

To begin writing

- Analyze your interview and organize the information into three different categories: background information, stories, and advice
- Write a description of your person—what does this person look like, sound like? What makes this person special? Include little details that tell us something important about the person.
- Ask yourself, what are the most interesting stories or advice that this person gave you?
- Write a thesis statement answering the following question: Why is this person someone that you admire? What makes him/her special?
- Create an OUTLINE using the sequence below

Essay Outline

- I. Introduction: Tell us about the relationship between you and this person. Why did you choose him/her?
- II. Body Paragraph I: About this person's background/life, physical and personal description
- III. Body Paragraph II: Stories that help you understand who this person really is and why this person is important in your life
- IV. Body Paragraph III: Advice that the person gives you or information about how this person views life and what they have learned from it
- V. Conclusion: Tie it all together—what did YOU learn from your interview? Why does is this person someone we should listen to? What is the big idea?

Grading

You will complete the following sections for this assignment:

1. List of at least 15 questions
2. One paragraph describing your person
3. Interview Notes
4. Outline
5. Rough Draft
6. Essay
7. Presentation