

## **Interview with an elderly person**

*For this project, you are required to interview a person who is 65 years or older. The following components must be included in the interview:*

- A. The description of the person interviewed a brief life history, the person's current living arrangement, activities, routine, and other pertinent information that would allow as to "visualizing" the person that you interviewed and his or her living environment. For example, you need to ask when the elder was born, what types of opportunities and hardships characterized the elder's life, what was/is the elder's occupation, etc.
- B. Did the elder experience ageism? If so, where and when? Ask for examples.
- C. Where does the elder reside? Is the elder content with his/her current living arrangement? Does the elder feel he/she is over-housed? If the elder could no longer live alone, what living option would he or she explore?
- D. What is the elder's health status? Does he or she experience any chronic health problems? How is he or she coping with them? How do they affect his or her level of functioning and life satisfaction? What is this person's opinion of the health status of the majority of the elderly in the community or the society? What kind of arrangements would this person desire at the end of his or her life?
- E. What is this person's evaluation of, and satisfaction with, the current health care program provided to the elderly by the government (Medicare or Medicaid)? Does the elder have Medigap coverage? What does the elder think about the new prescription drug addition to Medicare? Does the elder find that prescription drug costs are an increasing economic burden? Will the elder benefit from the new prescription drug coverage of Medicare? What are this person's suggestions for change?

- F. How is this person's financial situation? Is Social Security the only source of economic support of the elder? Does the elder receive a pension? How his or her finances affect this person's level of life satisfaction? What is the position of the elder regarding efforts to privatize social security? In this person's perception, what is the financial situation of the other elderly in the community and society?
- G. What is this person's current work status? Is he or she retired? What affected his or her decision to or not to retire? Is he or she satisfied with her decision? Did he or she experience any prejudice and discrimination?
- H. How does this person utilize his or her free time? Is this person volunteering? What are his or her favorite activities?
- I. What are the sources of social support in this person's life? Is he or she satisfied with her family and friends? What is the relative importance of different relationships in this person's life?

**Ask any additional questions that are important to you or you believe are important to the person you are interviewing!**

**Important reminders:**

- You will have to provide your notes to the instructor. You don't need to type your notes; hand-written notes handed to the instructor will be fine (even preferable - they will be returned to you promptly).
- Be courteous and professional. Respect your interviewee. Call her/him Mrs., Mr., or Ms. unless invited to do otherwise.

- Record the details of your person's stories as accurately and descriptively as possible. This is the information you will use to put your paper or presentation together. Do not add your own interpretations of what the person says.
- Remember that some topics may be sensitive or uncomfortable to the interviewee. If you notice discomfort, change the topic.

**Too skimpy notes will not receive full credit. You need to provide an evidence of a full interview even if you are convinced that you remember everything what the person had said or that you know the person's answers even if you did not ask the questions.**