

Student Worksheet:

Interview Sheet for my veteran

You are about to interview a veteran and you should to be ready with some questions beforehand. Make sure you include the following at the beginning of the interview:

Date of interview:

Name of the person interviewed:

Date of Birth:

The conflict they were involved in:

Their branch of service (i.e. Army, Navy, Air Force, Merchant Navy):

Their rank:

Where they served:

For example: "Today is June 6, 2009 and I am interviewing my Grandfather, Mr. Bill Thompson. Mr. Thompson is 85 years old and was born in November 11, 1924. My name is Jane Thompson and I will be the interviewer. Grandpa, please tell us what conflict you served in and your branch of service (pause for response). Please tell us your rank and where you served (pause for response)."

Here are some sample questions you may wish to ask:

1. Why did you choose to enlist; did you have friends/family who had already joined up?
2. Who was your commanding officer?
3. What was your trade?
4. What type of equipment did you use?
5. Where did you serve?
6. What were the meals like?
7. What was your most rewarding experience, what did you find most difficult?
8. Were you ever injured?
9. How long were you on the job? How many days did you have on leave?
10. What medals did you receive? Did you bring back any memorabilia?

Questions: Record the questions you wish to ask on this worksheet

1. How did you...

2. When did you...

3. Why did you....

4. Could you describe the photos and other memorabilia you have brought today?

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Other suggestions for a successful interview:

- Record throughout the entire interview, unless the veteran asks you to turn off the recorder.
- Never record secretly.
- Questions should be short and simple.
- Avoid questions that can be answered with a 'yes' or 'no'.
- Try to ask questions that begin with 'how', 'when' and 'why'.
- Avoid leading questions that suggest a certain answer.
- Remember not to speak throughout the veteran's interview. Nod your head in order to support the speaker.
- Don't start the interview with questions about potentially disturbing memories. Allow the veteran to provide context for his/her experience before asking specific questions.
- Allow the veteran time to reflect on your questions.
- Feel free to encourage the veteran to describe photos and other memorabilia during the interview. This can often prompt new memory or provide more detail to a particular story.
- Follow up questions can often expand a particular story. Consider asking: 'When did that happen?', 'Did that happen to you?', 'What did you think about that?' or 'How did you do that?'.

Now you are ready to input your work on the Ontario Veteran Community Archive. Go to our website and register. Type up your story and don't forget to add the pictures or videos you have created!