



RECORDING “IN YOUR WORDS” LEGACY VIDEO

People love a good story. So many of us rush through the day trying to scrape up enough time to collapse on the couch and either curl up with a good book or to watch a TV show. We retell memorable stories and use story to help describe people, places and events. It's all about the story!

So, we are inspiring you to take some time to start sharing your own, unique story or help someone that is important to you share theirs. You and your family will be thankful you took some time to create this Legacy Video.

PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW - PLANNING THE QUESTIONS

- 1. Plan your questions ahead of time.**
See Though Starter Questions List to get you started.
- 2. Select 3 questions that you want to dig into or hear stories about.**
- 3. Start with warm up questions to build comfort.**
i.e. Where were you born? How did you meet?
- 4. Ask open-ended questions.**
Use language like “Tell me about ...” or “What was it like when?”
- 5. Ask follow-up questions. Encourage stories!**
It's all about the lead question and then digging deeper.
i.e. Lead question, “Share with me the story of your wedding day”.
Then digging deeper questions would be things like, “What was the funniest thing that happened that day?” or “What song did you chose for your first dance? or “What was the weather like that day?”
The idea here is to not get one rambling story, which is difficult to edit, but to get succinct sentences that we can build a story on and cut pictures and video to.
- 6. Set up context.**
This is meant to be passed down over the generations and leave a legacy. Set up context when needed.
i.e. “Who was Uncle Steve? Why was he such an influence on you?”
- 7. Encourage vivid details.**
i.e. What did your kitchen smell like when you were growing up?
What images stand out when you think of grandpa?
- 8. Plan some reflective questions.**
As a wrap up ask questions like, “Looking back, what were your happiest times?”
Or “What advice would you give me about being a parent?”



SETTING UP TO RECORD

Recording a good quality video is easy- all you need is a smartphone, good lighting, a comfortable and quiet place, and a solid place to position the camera.

The three key steps to take before you hit the record button are:

1. FINDING A SPOT

- Find a spot where the person being recorded is comfortable.
- Find a spot with great light. Ideally, you will record the person sitting facing a window, using natural daylight instead of interior lights to illuminate their face. Watch out for shadows and be aware of any “top lights”- such as pot lights, that can cast shadows on a person’s eyes.
- Find a spot that is quiet- if there is background noise you run the risk of not having good clear audio. Find a spot that is away from fans, electronics like dishwashers, washing machines and other devices that may disturb the recording. And of course, turn cell phones off!

2. SETTING THE FRAME

- Position the camera/phone horizontally, not vertically.
- When you “frame” the person for the interview, you should make sure you put the camera down on something to avoid shaky footage. In lieu of a tripod, a table with a few large books on top can do the trick.
- Position the person in the center of the frame, so that you see their entire head and chest. Avoid giving the person a ‘hair cut’ or too much headroom.
- Have the person look directly into the lens. The eyes are the window to the soul, so have them look right into the lens as we will see their passion, joy and love when they tell the stories.
- Focus the lens- On most cameras this involves tapping the screen where the person’s face is and a yellow box will appear and that means the lens is focused on their face.

3. HAVING FUN!

- This isn’t Hollywood! This is a fun exercise that can be done a few times until you feel comfortable with what is recorded. And remember, we do the editing, so don’t worry about pauses during the stories, etc.
- Tell the person you’re going to ask three questions that will each trigger the three stories they’re going to tell. Tell them you’d like them to repeat the question in the answer. For example, you might ask “Tell me about the day you met Henry, what was that like?” And they would start their answer with “The day I met Henry was bitterly cold...” The reason for this is that if the person starts their answer with “it was bitterly cold” then we have no context as to what they’re talking about.



THE RECORDING & POST RECORDING

DURING THE RECORDING

So, you're having fun and "rolling camera", but there are some important things to remember while recording the video.

1. Ensure the camera is actually recording- this is a common mistake!
2. Ensure the storyteller is maintaining eye contact with the camera lens.
3. Ensure the camera doesn't run out of memory space- if it does, you'll need to stop- "dump" the footage and continue.
4. If sound interrupts the story- sirens, dogs barking, etc, you should ask the storyteller to repeat the part where there was noise.

POST RECORDING

1. Review the recording to ensure that it went well.
2. Connect the phone to a computer and download the recording.
3. Upload the recording to the link we provided you with.

DELIVERABLE SUMMARY

'In Your Words' is a 3-5 minute professionally edited legacy video intended to preserve personal memories for loved ones, and future generations to enjoy.

The turnaround time on a video until first cut, once recorded and uploaded to our secure server along with supporting images, is approximately 1 week.

A maximum of one set of notes/revisions is allowed. Up to 10 changes

The video will be delivered electronically, via Vimeo link and can be copied to USB or DVD for an additional charge.

KEY CRITERIA

- Select three questions from our list or come up with your own that will trigger a story or a fond memory that you would like to share.
- Each Story should take no longer than 5 minutes to tell. (15 minutes max)
- Select and label (by story #1,2 or 3) between 10-25 images to help us tell each story (75 images max)
- Select and label (by story #1,2 or 3) a maximum of 15 minutes of video footage that may support your story.
- Please select three songs that you enjoy, or give us a music cue- eg classical, country, blues



THOUGHT STARTER QUESTIONS

Read through our thought starter questions and see which ones speak to you. Or you can come up with your own. The goal here is to find 3 questions that you want to talk about or go deeper on in your Legacy Video interview.

A BIT ABOUT YOU!

- What is your full name?
- Why did your parents name you this?
- Did you have a nickname and how did you get it?
- When and where were you born?
- Where did you grow up?
- Did you like living there?
- Where do you fall in the birth order of your family?
- What was your favourite sport or hobby?
- What was your favourite food?
- What kind of music do you like?
- Where did you go to school?
- Did you enjoy school?
- What is your favourite day of the week? Season? Why?
- What 3 words describe you best?
- Who is your best friend? Why?

HERITAGE QUESTIONS

- What's your oldest memory?
- What is your ethnic background?
- How would you describe your childhood?
- What was school like growing up?
- Who was your favourite teacher? Why?
- How did you spend your spare time as a kid?
- Who were your closest childhood friends?
- What was your favourite holiday and how did your family celebrate it?
- What traditions have been passed down in your family?
- What trait did you inherit from your Mom? Dad?
- What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs?
- What was your favourite phase of life?
- Early years, teenager, young adult, elder etc.?
- What has been the greatest advancement of your lifetime so far?

QUESTIONS ON LOVE

- Do you have a love of your life?
- How did you meet?
- How did you know that "he/she" was the one?
- How did you propose or get proposed to?
- How do you compliment each other?
- What has brought you closer?
- What milestones stand out in your relationship?
- Share a favourite memory from your dating days?
- Share a favourite gift you received from your spouse?
- What have you had to overcome as a couple?
- What makes your laugh or smile about your spouse?
- What do you love most about your spouse?
- What advice do you have for young couples?
- Do you have any favorite stories as a couple?

QUESTIONS ON FAITH

- Who or what influenced your beliefs the most?
- What is one of your favourite poems, quotes or scripture verses?
- What faith lessons have you learned through adversity?
- How has your faith grown or changed?
- How has God provided for your needs or answered your prayers?
- If you could ask God one thing what would it be?



THOUGHT STARTER QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON CAREER

NOTES:

How did you start on the path that lead you to your career?

What was your favourite job? Why?

What was your first job? How old were you?

Who was your best boss? Why?

What is your proudest work accomplishment?

QUESTIONS ON PARENTHOOD

How has parenting changed you?

Tell me about your kids? Favourite Stories?

What was the hardest part of being a parent?

Most rewarding?

What dreams do you have for your children?

What advice would you give about raising kids?

DEEPER THOUGHTS

What is the biggest adventure you ever took?

What was one of your dreams in life?

Did you accomplish it?

What quality do you admire most in others?

What is your proudest accomplishment?

What do you regret most?

What are you most thankful for?

If you won \$100 million what would you do?

What do you want people to say about you?

What was the best piece of advice you were ever given?

How do you like to celebrate life or special occasions?

What legacy do you want to leave?

How do you define success? Happiness?

Who has inspired or shaped you the most?

What did they teach you?

What was the happiest moment of your life?

The saddest?

Who has been the biggest influence on your life?

What lessons did that person teach you?