



Tips for Interviewing

Prepare:

Set up a time and place for your interview. Choose somewhere quiet and allow at least 1 ½ to 2 hours for your interview. Draft your questions in advance; use the list below to help you get started. Add additional questions as appropriate.

Bring a recording device, or take notes on paper or computer. If you take notes, it's okay to ask the person to slow down while you write down what they've said.

Get started:

Don't be shy! People generally like to talk about themselves, but sometimes they need some encouragement to get started.

Once they've started sharing, be a respectful listener; don't interrupt.

Start with the facts:

- What is your first and last name? (Get the correct spelling.)
- When were you born?
- Where were you born?
- How long have you lived on Maui?
- Where do you live now?
- What kind of work do you do?
- Are you married?
- Do you have children? How many?

Move on to stories:

- Where is your favorite place to go outside on Maui?
- What do you like to do there?
- Describe how Maui (or their favorite place on Maui) looked when you were young. What has changed over the years?
- What is the biggest change you remember witnessing?

Conclude:

Be sure to thank your interviewee for his/her time. Explain how you will use the information they shared with you. Consider offering to share your final product with them.

Did you or your family members gather food from the forest or ocean? What kinds?

Ask for details:

- Is there a kind of food or flower or tree that you really miss?
- Are there places you used to go to that you don't go to anymore? Why?
- Do you remember the bombing of Kaho'olawe? Describe what it was like.
- Do you remember when Lāhainā and Pā'ia sugar mills were still operational?
- What did Pu'unēnē (or other town) look like in the old days? (Ask what year they are describing.)
- What kind of transportation did you use back then?
- How many people lived in your town/area?

Ask for feelings and value statements:

- What do you love most about Maui?
- How do the changes around the island make you feel?
- Do you think people who live here have a responsibility to preserve our resources?
- What do you think Maui will be like in the future?