

Family Voyage Brainstorm

Jonathan D. Platt

Alliance Graduate School of Counseling

Dr. Andrew Mercurio

October 7th, 2021

Abstract

The following paper is written as a brainstorm for the family voyage project, including interview plans, interview questions, and interview goals.

Interviews

This is a project that I am very excited about and want to take seriously. The following people are the persons in my family that I plan to interview.

Major Interviews (25 Questions)

Elvin Goode Maternal Grandfather

Yvonne Goode Maternal Great Aunt, grandfather's side

David Platt Father

Mary Anne Platt Mother

Susie Johnson Maternal Great Aunt, grandmother's side

Minor Interviews (5 Questions)

Lynn White Maternal second Cousin

Becky Rowe Paternal Aunt

Brad Platt Paternal Uncle

Jim Platt Paternal Uncle

Jon Flora Paternal Uncle

Julie Morris Maternal Aunt

Laurie Hydnman Maternal second cousin

The 25 Questions

1. How would you describe your parents' marriage?
Close/happy/distant, etc.
Did they show affection to each other? How?
2. Tell me about your parent's courtship
How did they meet?
How long did they date?
What attracted them to each other?
3. When you were a child, would you describe your parents' relationship as more romantic or business-like?
4. Tell me about your mother's family of origin. What was it like for her growing up...
What were her parents, sibs like...
5. Tell me about your father's family of origin. What was it like for him growing up...
What were his parents, sibs like...

6. Any forbidden topics or family secrets?
7. How was conflict handled in your family growing up, between your parents? Between siblings? Between a parent and sibling? Between a parent and you?
8. How was anger dealt with? Who got angry? What did they do when they got angry?
9. How was it being in your ordinal position? What special tasks or responsibilities were expected from you?
10. You left home at what age? Why?
11. How would you define a good marriage?
12. Your saddest or worst crisis?
13. Did your parents teach you about gender roles directly or indirectly? What did they teach you?
14. Do you feel like your same sex parent taught you how to “be” a man? (Or woman)
15. Generally I showed love best to my children by..
16. Are there things you wish you would have done and said as a parent?
17. At what age did your kids leave home? Why?
18. How did you feel about them leaving home? Your spouse?
19. Describe how your parents cared for your children.
20. Who influenced you most in your life?
21. What were the major turning points in your life?
22. 95. What was one of the things in life that made you most happy?
23. What was one of the things in life that made you most sad?
24. What do you like/dislike about yourself?

25. What advice or philosophy of life would you want to pass on to children and grandchildren?

26. What was the hardest question asked in this interview?

What I hope to Learn / Gain the Most

In the past, I think it would have been easy for me to go into this project with an agenda. I think I would use it as an opportunity to be overly selfish. I also think I would manipulate conclusions to bring myself a certain peace of mind about my struggles in life. Now, I want to be a good researcher. I want to let the information I receive guide this project. If I learn anything through it that benefits me, I will see it as a blessing. My main goal is that I would get to know the family members I interview on a deeper level. It's funny how we can live around each other for years but never know certain things about the family we love. I hope that my family feels seen and heard by this project.