 

**Voices of Freedom — Sample Conversation Starters**

**KEY FACTS**

* The best StoryCorps conversations are between two people who know each other.
* Conversations are not scripted.
* With your permission, interviews will be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

**Interview Tips**

* Think of it as a conversation. Speak normally and address the person you are interviewing.
* Keep in mind that future listeners may not be familiar with people and places you mention. Set up context and background.
* Ask questions that encourage details — these can help paint a picture for the listener.
* Be prepared to ask follow-up questions.
* Feel free to abandon the planned question list and go with questions that emerge!

**Great Questions to Ask Anyone**

* How did we first meet? What do you remember about meeting me?

**PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW**

* Speak normally and address your partner.
* Choose 5–10 questions to focus on. Feel free to ask follow-up questions!
* Think about future listeners and provide some context to your story.
* Feel free to let pauses or silences linger.
* Ask questions like “How does this make you feel?”
* Be curious, honest, and reflective.
* As a child, what were your hopes for your future? What did you think you would be when you grew up?
* Describe your community. What do you love about it? What would you change?
* Who has had the biggest influence on your life?
* How has your life been different than what you’d imagined?
* What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?
* What is one thing you want others to know about you?
* What does your future hold?
* How would you like to be remembered? What legacy do you want to leave for your family or community?

**Reflections on Lived Experience**

* How do you think your life experiences contributed to your work today?
* Who were your mentors or role models growing up?
* How do you define resilience? What have been the sources of resilience in your life?
* What advice would you give to a younger version of yourself?
* Is there anything about your life so far that surprises you?
* What message would you like to send to someone 50 years into the future?

**Reflections on the Anti-Trafficking Field**

* Describe the work that brought you here today. How did you get started?
* Was there a specific person or event that inspired you to start this work?
* What or who inspires you or keeps you motivated in the work you do?
* How does your work differ from most people’s perceptions of anti‑trafficking work?
* What do you wish more people knew or understood about human trafficking and the fight to end it?
* Do you have any favorite stories from your journey?
* What is the greatest lesson you have learned from the work you’ve done?
* What are some of the greatest successes the anti-trafficking field has accomplished in the last twenty years?
* Are there gaps in the anti-trafficking response that need to be addressed?
* Tell me about a time at work when you felt proud to do what you do.
* What lasting change have you made in your community that you are most proud of?
* Is there an individual you have served who sticks out in your mind? Why?
* Do you have any advice for people wishing to make a difference?