



# Family History Merit

1. Explain the value of investigating the history of your family and tell what makes your family unique.  
Complete MWS 1 “Family History Plan,” questions 1–4.
2. Identify the oldest living relative in your family with whom you can make contact. Formally arrange for an appointment where you can talk to each other in a quiet place without interruptions. Let them choose the place, so that they will be comfortable and have plenty of time to talk.  
Complete MWS 1 “Family History Plan,” questions 5 and 7.
3. Decide the purpose of your interview. Focus on at least one of the following:
  - a. The lineage of your family.
  - b. His or her childhood memories.
  - c. How technology has changed in his or her lifetime.
  - d. A country from which he or she might have emigrated.
  - e. His or her participation in the major events of the previous century such as wars, social change, or technological advances.
  - f. His or her role in the founding, growth, or development of your local church, including his or her personal testimony.
  - g. Favorite objects such as scrapbooks, photo albums, keepsakes, memorabilia, or family heirlooms.Complete MWS 1 “Family History Plan,” question 6.
4. Write a list of 6–10 questions in advance of the interview. Write more questions than you think you will need just in case you run out of things to say. Avoid yes or no questions. Let the interviewee feel free to elaborate or change the subject as desired.  
Complete MWS 2 “Family History Interview Plan.”
5. Describe the method you will use to record the responses of the interviewee, such as written notes, tape recorder, or videotape.  
Complete MWS 2 “Family History Interview Plan.”
6. Conduct the interview with that person. This interview may be conducted in person, or by telephone, letter, or e-mail.  
Complete MWS 3 “Family History Interview.”
7. Conduct follow-up interviews, if necessary, to make corrections to information gathered.  
Complete MWS 3 “Family History Interview.”

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8. Publish a report on your findings in ONE of the following formats:
  - a. A family web page or report from a genealogy program
  - b. A typed report including copies of pictures and resources used
  - c. A video report including film footage, stills, titles, and narrationThe report must include the following:
  - a. Explain the meaning of genealogy and genealogical resources.
  - b. Diagram a family tree tracing your ancestry at least to your great-grandfather and great-grandmother on at least one side of your family. If possible, include dates of birth and death, nationality, and occupation.
  - c. Obtain at least one genealogical document showing proof of some information on your family tree diagram or family group records. This document may be located in your home, a courthouse, an archive, a library, etc.
  - d. Write a 200-word history of yourself or of a close relative.
  - e. Contact ONE of the following and ask a question relating to its genealogical services or activities, and report the results.
    - i) A lineage society
    - ii) A surname organization
    - iii) A professional genealogist
    - iv) A genealogical education facility or institution
    - v) A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state archives, state library, national archives, etc.)
    - vi) A genealogical web site or computer database
    - vii) Genealogical softwareComplete MWS 4 “Family History Format.”
9. Write a letter to formally thank the interviewee for his or her time.  
Complete MWS 5 “Interview Thank-You Letter.”

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