

BP-59 • Bigger Picture • One Question One Weekend

Interview One Elder About Local Change

AI helps you prepare. The real work is the conversation. Sit with an elder, ask, listen, and learn how your area has changed in their lifetime.

Start the real-world brief

Build questions

YOUR CURRENT LEVEL

0 XP

Level 1: Story Seeker

Choose elder + topic

Ask AI for questions

Prepare respectfully

Have the conversation

Write field notes

The primary-source move

A **primary source** is information from someone who saw, lived through, or experienced something directly. An elder's memory is not the same as a textbook, but it can reveal how a place felt, changed, and mattered to people.

Use AI only to prepare questions. Do not let AI replace the human conversation.

1 Choose one elder and one change topic

Pick someone who is comfortable talking: grandparent, older neighbour, family friend, teacher, shopkeeper, or community elder.



Area change

Roads, buildings, shops, parks, transport, crowds, housing, schools, safety, public spaces.



Environment change

Weather, flooding, trees, lakes, beaches, air, noise, animals, open spaces.



Life change

Festivals, games, school life, work, markets, food, travel,

neighbours, how people spent time.

Area or topic

Example: Bandra, local markets, monsoon flooding, school life

Who I might interview

Example: grandmother, elderly neighbour, retired teacher

THOUGHT BULB

If stuck, just ask: **“What is the biggest change you have seen here?”** That one question can open a whole story.

☐

I chose one elder and one local change topic.

2 Ask AI to prepare interview questions

Open ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini. Paste this prompt.

YOUR FILLED PROMPT

Help me write 8 good questions to interview an elder about how [area/topic] has changed in their lifetime. Make the questions: 1. Respectful and warm 2. Easy for a Grade 9–12 student to ask 3. Open-ended, not yes/no 4. About real lived experience 5. Safe and not too personal 6. Useful for writing field notes afterward Do not answer the questions. AI only prepares questions; the real work is the conversation.

COPY-PASTE PROMPT

Help me write 8 good questions to interview an elder about how [area/topic] has changed in their lifetime.

Make the questions:

1. Respectful and warm
2. Easy for a Grade 9–12 student to ask
3. Open-ended, not yes/no
4. About real lived experience
5. Safe and not too personal

6. Useful for writing field notes afterward

Do not answer the questions. AI only prepares questions; the real work is the conversation.

Copy my filled prompt

CAUTION BOARD

AI prepares questions. It does not invent the answers. The real knowledge comes from listening to the elder.

☐

I used AI to prepare questions, not replace the conversation.

3

Use or edit these 8 question types

Good interviews move from easy memory to deeper reflection.

1. Start easy: What was this area like when you were younger?

2. Places: Which places here have changed the most?

3. Daily life: How did people travel, shop, study, or spend evenings then?

4. Community: How were neighbours, festivals, or public spaces different?

5. Environment: What changes have you seen in trees, weather, water, noise, or open spaces?

6. Good change: What change made life better?

7. Hard change: What change do you miss or worry about?

8. Advice: What should young people understand about this place?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT

Make these interview questions warmer, simpler, and respectful. Add 2 follow-up questions I can ask if the elder gives a short answer.

Copy follow-up prompt

4 Prepare respectfully before you ask

A good interview is not an interrogation. It is a conversation.

1

Ask permission

“Can I ask you a few questions for a school-style learning activity?”

2

Pick a good time

Do not interrupt when the person is tired, busy, or uncomfortable.

3

Take notes

Write key points.
Record audio only if a grown-up and the elder clearly approve.

4

Respect limits

If they do not want to answer something, skip it politely.

INTERVIEW STARTER

“I’m trying to understand how our area has changed. Could I ask you a few questions? You can skip anything you don’t want to answer.”

☐

I prepared a respectful way to ask for the interview.

5 Have the conversation offline

This is the main task. Sit, ask, listen.

Do

Listen without rushing. Ask “Can you tell me more?” Write exact phrases that feel important.

Do not

Argue, correct every detail, push sensitive topics, share private stories online, or treat memory like gossip.

PRIVACY BOARD

Do not publish the elder’s name, address, phone number, health details, family details, or private stories. Use “an elder I interviewed” unless a grown-up approves otherwise.

☐

I had the real conversation or scheduled it respectfully.

6 Write your field notes

Field notes are your rough record of what you learned.

FIELD NOTES STRUCTURE

Person interviewed: [elder / neighbour / relative — no private details]

Area or topic: _____

1. Biggest change they described:

2. One detail that surprised me:

3. One thing that became better:

4. One thing they miss or worry about:

5. One quote or phrase I want to remember:

6. My reflection:

What did this conversation help me understand?

My interview field notes

Biggest change:

One surprising detail:

One thing better now:

One thing they miss or worry about:



☐ I wrote field notes from the interview.

7

Pick the biggest change

This is the closer. One conversation, one clear insight.

The biggest change I heard about

Example: The biggest change was that open fields became buildings, and children stopped playing outside as much.

REAL-WORLD BRIEF WIN

You practised a skill AI cannot replace: asking a human being about lived experience and listening carefully.

☐

I picked the biggest change and wrote it clearly.

8 Optional: make your weekend brief card

A small reminder of the interview move.

CARD COPY

Title: One Question One Weekend

Question: What local change has an elder seen?

Prompt: “Help me write 8 good questions to interview an elder about how [area/topic] has changed in their lifetime.”

Rule: AI prepares questions. The real work is the conversation.

If stuck: Ask, “What’s the biggest change you’ve seen here?”

☐ I made, sketched, or saved the weekend brief card.

Final 5-minute move

Complete this sentence: “Before the interview, I thought _____. After listening, I realised _____.”

My interview reflection sentence

Before the interview, I thought _____. After listening, I realised _____.

☐ I used AI only to prepare questions.

☐ I respected privacy and did not share personal details.

☐ I wrote what I learned from the actual conversation.

NOTEBOOK LINE

Write this down: **“Some knowledge lives in people. AI can help me ask better questions, but I still have to listen.”**

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Made with care. No data collected.

Questions? Teachers and parents, write to us. Students, speak with your teacher or a grown-up first.