

LA PERSONA ESPECIAL

These first questions give us some *Basic Information* about you.
They set the stage and help us to begin to get to know you.

1. ¿Cómo te llamas?

Me llamo...

Se llama...

What is your name?

I call myself...

He/She calls himself...

2. ¿Prefieres... o prefieres otro nombre?

Do you prefer... or do you prefer another name?

Prefiero...

Prefiere...

I prefer...

He/She prefers...

3. ¿En cuál grado estás?

Estoy en el grado...

Está en el grado...

What grade are you in?

I am in grade ____.

He/She is in grade ____.

4. ¿Cuántos años tienes?

Tengo ____ años.

Tiene ____ años.

How old are you?

I am ____ years old.

He/She is ____ years old.

5. ¿Dónde vives?

Vivo en...

Vive en...

Where do you live?

I live in ____.

He/She lives in ____.

6. ¿De dónde eres (originalmente)?

Soy de...

Es de...

Where are you from (originally)?

I am from ____.

He/She is from ____.

.....

Follow Up Questions for Basic Information:

(4) ¿Tienes tu licencia? *Do you have your license?*

(4) ¿Tienes tu permiso? *Do you have your permit?*

(4) ¿Cuándo vas a tener tu...?
When are you going to have your...?

(4) ¿Tienes un carro? *Do you have a car?*

(4) ¿Qué tipo de carro es? *What kind of car is it?*

(4) ¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños? *When is your birthday?*

(5) ¿Te gusta vivir en _____? *Do you like living in ____?*

(6) ¿Eres nuevo/a aquí? *Are you new here?*

(6) ¿Por cuántos años vives aquí?
For how many years have you lived here?

vivía *I/he/she used to live*

trabaja *he works*

aquí	<i>here</i>	familia	<i>family</i>	años	<i>years</i>
un trabajo	<i>a job</i>	licencia	<i>license</i>	meses	<i>months</i>
la ciudad	<i>the city</i>	permiso	<i>permit</i>		
el campo	<i>country</i>	carro	<i>car</i>		

su *his / her*

tu *your*

todavía *yet*

mi *my*

en *in / at*

por *for*

nuevo/a *new*

The following are the questions that get to the **Interesting Details** about a person.
The **underlined** questions below will definitely be asked and others may be.

¿Qué te gusta hacer?

Me gusta...

Le gusta...

What do you like to do?

I like...

He/She likes...

¿Qué más te gusta hacer?

También me gusta...

También le gusta...

What else do you like to do?

I also like...

He/She also likes...

¿Tienes un talento interesante o una habilidad extraña?

*Do you have an interesting talent or a strange ability?
(What are you really good at that would surprise us?)*

Sí, puedo...

No, no tengo.

Puede...

Dice que no puede hacer nada interesante.

Yes, I can...

No, I don't have one.

He/She can...

¿Qué quisieras hacer en el futuro?

What would you like to do in the future?

Quisiera...

I/She/He would like to...

¿Adónde quisieras viajar?

Quisiera ir a...

Where would you like to travel?

I/She/He would like to go to...

¿Dónde quisieras vivir?

Quisiera vivir en...

Where would you like to live?

I/She/He would like to live in...

¿Qué no puedes hacer muy bien...todavía?

What can you not do very well...yet?

No puedo ___ muy bien... todavía. *I can't__ very well...yet*

No puede ___ muy bien... todavía. *He/She can't __very well...yet.*

¿Qué tienes que hacer que no te gusta mucho?

What do you have to do that you don't like much?

Tengo que...

I have to...

Tiene que...

He/She has to...

¿Cómo vas a ayudar a la gente en el futuro?

How are you going to help people in the future?

Las voy a ayudar por...

I am going to help them by...

Las va a ayudar a la gente por...

He/She is going to help people by...

¿Tienes un animal?

Do you have an animal?

¿Tienes una mascota?

Do you have a pet?

¿Tienes otros animales?

Do you have any other animals?

¿Tienes un trabajo?

Do you have a job?

¿Te gusta la música?

Do you like music?

¿Cuál tipo de música te gusta? *What kind of music...?*

¿Tocas un instrumento musical? *Do you play an instrument?*

¿Juegas un deporte? *Do you play a sport?*

¿Cuáles son tus videojuegos favoritos?
What are your favorite video games?

¿Qué te gusta leer? *What do you like to read?*

¿Cuáles clases tienes? *What classes do you have?*

Además de la clase de español, ¿cuál es tu clase favorita?
Besides Spanish class, what is your favorite class?

¿Estás en un club aquí en la escuela?
Are you in a club...?

¿Quisieras ir a la universidad?
Would you like to go to a university?

¿A cuál universidad quisieras ir?
Which university would you like to go to?

¿Qué quisieras estudiar?
What would you like to study?

¿Qué quisieras aprender?
What would you like to learn?

¿Cuáles son tus comidas favoritas?
What are your favorite foods?

¿Qué te gusta comer?
What do you like to eat?

¿Tienes un novio / una novia?

Do you have a boyfriend / girlfriend?

¿Tienes hermanos?

Do you have any siblings?

¿Tienes mucha familia cerca?

Do you have much family nearby?

¿Qué hiciste el verano pasado?

What did you do last summer?

¿Qué hiciste durante las vacaciones?

What did you do during vacation?

¿Adónde fuiste?

Where did you go?

¿Con quién fuiste?

Who did you go with?

¿Te gustó?

Did you like it?

¿Cuál fue tu parte favorita de las vacaciones?

What was your favorite part of the vacation?

¿Qué hiciste la semana pasada?

What did you do last weekend?

¿Qué más hay?

What else / more is there?

¿Qué más quieres compartir?

What else do you want to share?

MORE and DEEPER QUESTIONS.

We are asking kids to tell us stories about themselves that will connect us all. These are not family secrets, or tragedies or deeply personal items, but we are asking for a glimpse into what makes them tick. We are all working on becoming better human beings and we want to allow our students to share that growth with us and with one another. Setting up this type of voluntary self disclosure gives each student permission to express his or herself in unique ways. It allows students the opportunity to think about themselves and their futures in ways they may have never thought before. The core question we are trying to get from every student is:

- **What is your story?**

We talk with students and engage them to help them to overcome loneliness, isolation and anxiety. We obviously can't ask kids "So what do you do for a living?" Thank goodness we can't ask them that boring cocktail party tripe yet. We get to ask them better questions based on this type of thinking:

"It doesn't interest me what you do for a living, I want to know what you ache for and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing."

—from The Invitation, by Oriah Mountain Dreamer (A Native American Elder)

The questions we will ask our students have to do with what they want to get better at, their goals, interests, life purpose, their future legacy, willingness to struggle, their unique story, what they have learned and observed in their lives. Here are some sample questions to prime the pump:

GETTING BETTER AT WHAT WE WANT TO DO

We all need to get busy doing something. We need to develop our natural talents and inclinations and then get good at them and turn them into valuable skills.

Passion is the result of action, not the cause of it. Pick a problem that you want to help solve.

Remember that getting good at something worthwhile means being awful at it at first. You need to be willing to fail, then fail again and then fail better each time. So ask:

- **What kinds of problems do you want to solve?**
- **How do you want to help other people? (This is the only way to make a living and to make a fulfilling life)**
- **What do you want to get good at?**
- **What do you enjoy getting better at?**
- **What are you willing to do poorly until you can do it well?**

LIFE PURPOSE QUESTIONS

Hardly anyone ever enjoys their job every single day. All work stinks sometimes. We all have certain tasks or aspects of our jobs that we do not particularly like, so ask your students questions that take that reality into account.

- **What are some things that you have to do at this time in your life that you dislike the least?**
- **What unpleasant duties do you have right now that you are able to handle well?**

- **What is there about your life now that would have made your seven-year-old self cry?**
- **What dreams did you used to have when you were younger?**

- **What did you want to be when you were seven years old?**
- **When you were a little kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?**
- **What do you like to do so much that it makes you forget to eat?**
- **What activity is there that you do that makes you forget everything else because it is so engrossing to you?**
- **If you had to leave your house every day, where would you go?**
- **What would you do if you got to choose what to do every day?** *Crashing on a friend's couch, hanging out at a coffee shop, and playing video games do not count. You will have to do something all day, every day, so... What would you do?*

To live happy, healthy and productive lives we have to hold on to values that are greater than our own pleasure or satisfaction.

- **How do you think you are going to help save the world?**
- **How do you plan on helping people in the future?**

WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE KNOWN FOR?

- **If you knew you were going to die in one year, what would you do? What would you want to accomplish?**
- **How would you want to be remembered?**
- **What do you want your obituary to say?**
- **What do you want to be respected for?**
- **What are people going to say about you when you are gone?**
- **What are the stories they are going to tell about you?**

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO STRUGGLE FOR?

If we were to ask you, "What do you want out of your life?" You would probably say something like, "I want to be happy and have a great family and a job I like," But that is generic answer that almost everybody would come close to, so it doesn't really mean much. Some more interesting questions, question that most of us have never been asked before are:

- **What pain are you willing to have in your life?**
- **What are you willing to struggle for?**

The question that determines your success in life is not "What do you want to enjoy?" A much better question is:

- **What pain are you willing to bear to achieve your goals?**

The quality of your life is not determined by the amount of your possessions, but by the amount of struggle you are willing to experience on the way to achieving your goals. A person that was born rich is fortunate, but not successful unless they are contributing something to society. A person that wins a lot of money in the lottery may be lucky, but they have not achieved anything. You have to get good at dealing with negative experiences in order to get good at dealing with life.

You stick with things you enjoy. Will power only goes so far. Will power cannot compete with emotional attachment. Unless you are emotionally rewarded for a task, you will not stick with it.

- ***What is one thing that you want to do in your life?***
- ***What are you missing in your life? How can we help you with that?***
- ***What is one thing that really bothers you that you can work at fixing?***

This is not a gripe session. We are not just complaining. We are finding out what students are interested in and we are asking them about it.

PERSONAL STORIES TO GET KIDS TO OPEN UP

The classroom interviews are not sneak attacks to label kids and put them in some power order according to approved activities. We are not trying to figure out who are the alphas in the room. Personal stories are equalizers. Questioning like this helps kids to overcome shyness. They get to listen to each other's stories. We get to break through the walls and get to the place of sharing.

In these classroom conversations it is interesting to keep in mind that the origin of the word "conversation" has to do with how we conduct ourselves in the world, how we keep company with one another, how we treat people, how we live:

These questions are not intended to get us to a certain point; they let the interviewee decide where it goes. We are just trying to get to know one another. We are putting kids in a situation where they can be the hero of the story, if they wish, rather than the victim that so many of them see themselves. Ask about the 4 F's: foods, films, fears and fabulous things. Ask about books and teachers.

FOODS

- ***When you have guests at your house, what do you (or what does your family) cook for them?***
- ***Does this food have to do with your family heritage?***
- ***What memories or associations do you have with bread?***

FILMS

- ***Tell us about a movie that made you cry.***
- ***Who would you want play you in a movie?***
- ***What is your favorite funny movie?***

FEARS

- ***What is a fear you have overcome?***

FABULOUS

- ***Has there ever been a time in your life that you have overcome racism?***
- ***What is one of the nicest things that anyone has ever done for you?***
- ***Tell us about a time that you discovered you were stronger than you thought you were.***

TEACHERS & BOOKS

- ***Who was your 'Dumbledore'? Who was your favorite teacher in middle school? Elementary school?***
- ***How has a book you have read affected you?***

OTHER QUESTIONS THAT HELP BUILD RAPPORT

- *Would you like to be famous? In what way?*
- *When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?"*
- *Name three things you and your partner from _____ seem to have in common.*

- *What do you love in life?*
- *What makes you happy?*
- *What makes life exciting for you?*
- *What is the greatest dream you have for your life?*

- *What do you really like, but hesitate to admit?*
- *What are your guilty pleasures?*
- *What makes you smile?*
- *What is one thing you can't say no to?*

- *What is the craziest thing you've ever done?*
- *What is something unique and exciting about you?*
- *What do your friends like the most about you?*
- *What are some things in your life that you are most proud of?*
- *If you could wake up tomorrow and be any place, where would it be and why?*
- *What are some of the most important life lesson you have learned so far?*
- *What is a favorite memory you have from your childhood?*

OTHER QUESTIONS

- *What are three words that best describe you?*
- *If you were made the mayor of your city for one day, what would you do?*
- *What stresses you out?*
- *Whom do you envy?*

- *How would you know that a guy/girl was right for you?*
- *What makes him/her stand out from the rest?*
- *Do you believe in love at first sight?*
- *Is it possible to fall in love just by looking into someone's eyes?*

Big Wedding or Small?

By DANIEL JONESJAN. 9, 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/11/fashion/no-37-big-wedding-or-small.html>

In Mandy Len Catron's Modern Love essay, "[To Fall in Love With Anyone, Do This.](#)" she refers to [a study by the psychologist Arthur Aron](#) (and others) that explores whether intimacy between two strangers can be accelerated by having them ask each other a specific series of personal questions. The 36 questions in the study are broken up into three sets, with each set intended to be more probing than the previous one.

The idea is that mutual vulnerability fosters closeness. To quote the study's authors, "One key pattern associated with the development of a close relationship among peers is sustained, escalating, reciprocal, personal self-disclosure." Allowing oneself to be vulnerable with another person can be exceedingly difficult, so this exercise forces the issue.

The final task Ms. Catron and her friend try — staring into each other's eyes for four minutes — is less well documented, with the suggested duration ranging from two minutes to four. But Ms. Catron was unequivocal in her recommendation. "Two minutes is just enough to be terrified," she told me. "Four really goes somewhere."

Set I

1. Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?
2. Would you like to be famous? In what way?
3. Before making a telephone call, do you ever rehearse what you are going to say? Why?
4. What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?
5. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?
6. If you were able to live to the age of 90 and retain either the mind or body of a 30-year-old for the last 60 years of your life, which would you want?
7. Do you have a secret hunch about how you will die?
8. Name three things you and your partner appear to have in common.
9. For what in your life do you feel most grateful?
10. If you could change anything about the way you were raised, what would it be?
11. Take four minutes and tell your partner your life story in as much detail as possible.
12. If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, what would it be?

Set II

13. If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, the future or anything else, what would you want to know?
14. Is there something that you've dreamed of doing for a long time? Why haven't you done it?
15. What is the greatest accomplishment of your life so far?
16. What do you value most in a friendship?
17. What is your most treasured memory?
18. What is your most terrible memory?
19. If you knew that in one year you would die suddenly, would you change anything about the way you are now living? Why?
20. What does friendship mean to you?
21. What roles do love and affection play in your life?

22. Alternate sharing something you consider a positive characteristic of your partner. Share a total of five items.

23. How close and warm is your family? Do you feel your childhood was happier than most other people's?

24. How do you feel about your relationship with your mother?

Set III

25. Make three true "we" statements each. For instance, "We are both in this room feeling ..."

26. Complete this sentence: "I wish I had someone with whom I could share ..."

27. If you were going to become a close friend with your partner, please share what would be important for him or her to know.

28. Tell your partner what you like about them; be very honest this time, saying things that you might not say to someone you've just met.

29. Share with your partner an embarrassing moment in your life.

30. When did you last cry in front of another person? By yourself?

31. Tell your partner something that you like about them already.

32. What, if anything, is too serious to be joked about?

33. If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone? Why haven't you told them yet?

34. Your house, containing everything you own, catches fire. After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash to save any one item. What would it be? Why?

35. Of all the people in your family, whose death would you find most disturbing? Why?

36. Share a personal problem and ask your partner's advice on how he or she might handle it. Also, ask your partner to reflect back to you how you seem to be feeling about the problem you have chosen.

FURTHER READING AND INSPIRATION FOR THIS TYPE OF THINKING

What motivates you in life?

The Invitation

by Oriah Mountain Dreamer, a Native American Elder

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living.
I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are.
I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your dreams, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon.
I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain!

I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it or fade it or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own, if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, be realistic, or to remember the limitations of being human

It doesn't interest me if the story you're telling me is true.
I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul.

I want to know if you can be faithful and therefore be trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see beauty even when it is not pretty every day, and if you can source your life from God's presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of a lake and shout to the silver of the moon, "YES"!

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have.
I want to know if you can get up after a night of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be done for the children.

It doesn't interest me who you are, how you came to be here.
I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied.
I want to know what sustains you from the inside when all else falls away.

I want to know if you can be alone with yourself, and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.

Do you have a narrow or a wide perspective on your life?

El momento más grave de mi vida, by Cesar Vallejo (See English translation below)

—El momento más grave de mi vida estuvo en la batalla del Marne cuando fui herido en el pecho.

Otro hombre dijo:

—El momento más grave de mi vida, ocurrió en un maremoto de Yokohama, del cual salvé milagrosamente, refugiado bajo el alero de una tienda de lacas.

Y otro hombre dijo:

—El momento más grave de mi vida acontece cuando duermo de día.

Y otro dijo:

—El momento más grave de mi vida ha estado en mi mayor soledad.

Y otro dijo:

—El momento más grave de mi vida fue mi prisión en una cárcel del Perú.

Y otro dijo:

—El momento más grave de mi vida es el haber sorprendido de perfil a mi padre.

Y el último hombre dijo:

—El momento más grave de mi vida no ha llegado todavía.

The Worst Moment of My Life

-The worst moment of my life was in the Battle of the Marne when I was wounded in the chest.

Another man said:

-The worst moment of my life occurred in a tidal wave in Yokohama, from which I was saved miraculously by finding shelter under the eaves of a paint store.

And another man said:

-The worst moment of my life happens when I sleep during the day.

And another said:

-The worst moment of my life has been my great loneliness.

And another said:

-The worst moment of my life was my imprisonment in a jail in Peru.

And another said:

-The worst moment of my life was being surprised seeing the face of my (dead) father.

And the last man said:

-The worst moment of my life has not arrived yet.