**Senior: Autobiography Assignment/Interview questions**

**Please use your time over the holidays to have these questions answered by your family members. Answers will be used to formulate your own autobiography! Please write these on a separate sheet of paper, or type them!**

You will use the questions to form a chapter for your Autobiography, which will be the culminating writing for your academic career here at Clinton. For each chapter, you will take the answers to the interview questions and turn them into a narrative of that particular topic/subject. You may add your own information in addition to the interview questions.

Answers to the questions MUST be submitted in typed form, as they will be a part of the appendix for your autobiography. Parents may not be able to answer every question. If this is the case, skip it and go onto the next one.

**Chapter 1-Ancestors**

1. What are the names and relationship of my grandparents, great-grandparents, and any others

you have information on? (divided maternal and paternal, include maiden names if available.)

1. What is my nationality on each side of the family?
2. Do you have any records or documents that would help me learn about grandparents and great

grandparents, especially where they came from? Where they lived? What they did?

1. Do you know how many grandparents met or any stories about their courtship and marriage?
2. Do you know any eccentric characteristics or funny stories about any of my ancestors?
3. Where are my grandparents/great-grandparents buried?
4. How did our family get to Clinton (or wherever you are living)?

Photos?

Education?

Occupations

Church?

**Chapter 2-Questions for YOUR PARENTS (they will describe THEIR LIVES/PAST EXPERIENCES)**

**Both parents should answer the questions IF POSSIBLE!**

1. Describe the place you grew up.
2. List schools attended, diplomas received and school honors awards.
3. Other non-school activities you were involved in during your youth?
4. Describe a typical day for you as a child?
5. What was your favorite teacher and why?
6. Favorite school subject?
7. Most embarrassing moment in school? Proudest moment?
8. Did you ever win a spelling bee?
9. Play on a championship team?
10. Have a part in a school play?
11. What did you do after school and during the summers when you were my age?
12. What special way did you celebrate holidays? What holidays do you have special memories of? What are those memories? Favorite Halloween costumes? Easter egg hunts? Special Christmas gifts?
13. What are special memories you have about your parents and grandparents?
14. Did you receive an allowance when you were my age? How much?
15. What chores did you have to do around the house?
16. What was your first paid job?
17. What were three popular slang words when you were a kid?
18. What was the best vacation that you took as a kid?
19. What invention that was introduced in your lifetime has had the biggest impact on your life?
20. Do you have any prized possession from your childhood?
21. What are family traditions that come from your parents and what ones did you start? Did you have family traditions that we stopped following?
22. When did you first feel like a grown up and why?
23. What are the most significant historical events that have occurred in your lifetime?
24. When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?
25. What was the most important thing your parents taught you?
26. What incident or event or year was a turning point in your life and why?
27. What has been the high point in your life and why?
28. What would you want me to tell my grandchildren about you?

**Chapter 3-Parents courtship and marriage**

1. When, where, and how did you meet
2. What was your first impression of the other?
3. First date?
4. What did you do on dates?
5. How long did you date before you knew it was a serious relationship?
6. When did you first consider marriage and when and how was the questioned asked?
7. What did the grandparents think of the whole thing?
8. Honeymoon?
9. First house or apartment?
10. Jobs at the time?
11. How long before kids came?
12. What were the early years of marriage like?
13. What kinds of things did you do-movies, vacations, friends?
14. How did marriage change your life?
15. Your age at my birth and siblings birth?

**Chapter 4: The Story of My Birth (Questions for Parents)**

**Mom**

1. Is there anything you have memories about during the pregnancy that you would like to share?
2. What was on when you went into labor?
3. Length, Weight, time of birth, any other problems with things that struck out about my birth?
4. What were your thoughts and feelings the first time you held me?
5. Who came to visit us at the hospital, or on the first few days at home?
6. Neatest gifts?
7. Favorite baby outfit or toys? Colors/decorations?

**Dad**

1. What were you doing while mom was in labor?
2. What were your thoughts or feeling when you first saw or held me?

**Both**

1. How did your life change with my birth?

**Chapter 5: My Early Years (Questions for Parents)**

1. How old was I when I first rolled over, sat up, slept through the night, walked, got my first tooth, or any significant mile stones?
2. What were my first words and how old was I?
3. During my infancy/ toddler years, did I have any pets, favorite foods, first punishments, favorite baby sitters, significant illnesses, things they really liked or disliked, or have positive or negative relationships with siblings?

**Chapter 6: Elementary Years (Questions for Parents)**

1. What are your memories of my early school years as far as grades, activities, friends, vacations, illnesses, fieldtrips, School programs, favorite things to do?
2. What kind of a kid was I?

**Chapter 7**: **Junior Years (Questions for Parents)**

How do you feel I handled myself during the adolescent years of junior high? What were the biggest changes you saw in me during this time? What were your worries or concerns about my development? What did you picture me doing for a career when I got older?

**Additional Chapters: You’ll be writing about these topics, but they will be from your own perspective.**

**Chapter 8: High School**

A narrative of all your high school experiences, including athletics, academics, extra-curricular accomplishments, and any notable social functions. THIS WILL BE THE LONGEST CHAPTER OF THE BOOK!

**Chapter 9: Family: Past and Present**

This will be reflections on your relationships with your immediate and extended family. This section should include information about your relationships with family members, holiday/other family traditions, and any other information that you wish to write about in regards to family. This is a section to recognize those closest to you.

**Chapter 10: Friends: Past and Present**

This chapter should document the friendships throughout your life (how relationships have changed, how your “clique” shifted/changed over the years. This may also be a lengthy section. Feel free to write about specific traditions/rituals you have with your friends, or any specific memories you have with them.

**Chapter 11: Reflections**

This is your 3-4 page section to reflect on your experiences up to this point; think of this as the knowledge/wisdom you’ve acquired based especially on your high school experiences. You should reflect on your academics, your social life, extra-curricular experiences, work experiences, etc.

**Chapter 12: The future**

In this section, you should detail your life in the following “time frames:”

In five years from now…

In ten years from now…

In twenty years from now…

What you want most out of life…

Complete the following sentence at the end of this chapter: “When I look back on my life…”

**Acknowledgements:**

This is the spot to acknowledge the people who have helped you along the way; detail the role each has played in your life.

**Appendix: Your “appendix” will include:**

* Copies of the interview questions (so you’ll need to type the responses)
* Pictures you wish to include, along with captions for the assignment
* You may wish to include other important “documents” as part of your appendix

**Due Dates: (Subject to change, but plan accordingly)**

Jan. 10th – Questions finished, typed and submitted

Feb. 7th – Chapters 1 & 2

Feb. 21st – Chapters 3 & 4

March 7th – Chapters 5 & 6

March 21st –Chapters 7 & 8

April 17th –Chapters 8 & 9

May 2nd –Chapters 10 & 11

May 9th –Chapter 12

May 14th: Acknowledgements

May 20th: Final Autobiography is due

**Reminders:**

* Treat this as if your Grandparents are going to read it (because they probably will). Be tactful and respectful, but be truthful.
* Each chapter should be MINIMUM 2-3 PAGES IN LENGTH. This is the most important writing in your life up to this point.
* Right now it is just another “assignment.” In 15 years this will mean the world to you. In 30 years your children will read it and laugh at you (then themselves, once they realize they’re just LIKE YOU!)
* Make this something you can be proud of!!
* USE THIS TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE UP TO THIS POINT; ALSO, LEARN ABOUT YOUR PARENTS’ CHILDHOOD AND SHARE IN THEIR MEMORIES. THIS IS A SPECIAL TIME IN YOUR LIFE! ENJOY THE PROCESS OF DOCUMENTING WHO YOU ARE!!