

Religious Traditions Interviews

Due 2/5/19

Religious traditions can be very important to families and cultures, often they are passed from an older generation to the next generation. While some families may practice a shared religion (such as Hinduism or Judaism) at other times individuals may convert (*join*) new religious communities because of a personal experience or marriage. Over the next two weeks, please interview someone about their religious or spiritual beliefs and practices.

You may choose a family member, neighbor, or an elder in your religious community. You may also interview someone who has chosen not to practice any religion.

The questions listed below may guide you in your interview but you will need to edit and change them depending upon whom you interview. This is especially the case if you interview someone who is an atheist (does not believe in a God) or agnostic (someone who is unsure whether there is or is not a God).

To demonstrate that these interviews occurred you will be asked to turn in the following:

1. A multi-paragraph summary of your interview.
2. Optional: You may include photographs of important items that were discussed in your interview

Possible Interview Questions

1. What religion do you practice (Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, etc)?
2. Tell me about the religious tradition or spiritual practices of your childhood.
3. Were you aware of friends or neighbors where you grew up who believed in something different? What was that like?
4. How has your faith changed over time?
5. What holidays do you celebrate?
6. Are there traditional foods, music, or dances that are part of those holidays? Would you teach them to me?
7. Was your religion an important factor when finding a partner to date or marry?
8. Are there unique traditions associated with marriage or childbirth in your religion?
9. What is the history of your religion? Where/how did it begin?
10. Are there rituals or objects that are important in your religion?
11. Are there specific texts or documents that are important for teaching about your religion? Why are these texts special? Do people disagree about the history or meaning(s) of these texts?
12. Does your religion have stories about good and evil in the world?
13. How does your religion explain what happens to people after they die?
14. Does your religion have an explanation for why people suffer in the world?
15. What would you say is, from your perspective, the most commonly held misconception about people of your religion?
16. Is there anything else about your religion that you think is important for me to know?