

PROFILE QUESTIONS

- You have lots of options. You can ask your subject the standard background information just to get the routine stuff out of the way and then move on to other questions.
- If your subject doesn't seem talkative or provides mostly "yes" and "no" responses, try prodding them a little. For example, if you ask him, "Do you like your job?" and he answers "yes," follow up with "why do you like it?" If he responds, "Because it gives me a lot of free time," follow up with, "What do you like to do in your free time and why do you enjoy doing it?"
- What follows are some of the many questions you may want to ask:
- Where did you go to college? What degrees do you have? What, if any, further degrees or certifications are you pursuing? Do you have any other special training that has prepared you for your career?
- Where have you worked before this job?
- What honors/awards have you received?
- Could you give some personal background (single/married, children, etc.)?
- Are you involved in any community organizations (charities, church, etc.)?
- What are your hobbies?
- Where did you grow up? Did you move around a lot? If yes, how did this affect you? If no, how did the stability of living in one place all your life affect you?
- Are there any political or social issues you feel passionately about? Do you have a nickname?
- List your favorites (book, movie or play, quote, poem, website, type of food or individual dish, music genre, song, band or individual musician, perfume, clothing style or designer, etc.).
- Where have you traveled?
- Tell me about your current job (activity, whatever)? What attracted you to it?
- How do you break it down and handle everything?
- How do you keep a healthy work/life balance?
- What are your greatest stresses and what causes you the most anxiety in your life?
- What is most rewarding about your job; what makes it all worthwhile?

- What are the most critical problems faced by people in your field in this city/state/country? How do you think these problems should be handled?
- What's the hardest thing for you about being a ____? How do you address that?
- What comes easiest to you as a ____?
- Who was your favorite _____ and why?
- So far what's been your most embarrassing moment as a _____?
- What's the newest, freshest approach you are bringing to your job?
- What's the next skill or knowledge set you want to add to your repertoire to make you a better _____?
- Favorite weekend activity?
- What's your favorite funny story about yourself?
- Name one thing about yourself that most people don't know.
- List three misconceptions that people often have about you (and, if none, why).
- What's your life plan? What do you plan to have accomplished in five, 10, 20, and 50 years -- personally and/or professionally?
- What was your favorite toy (or game) as a child, and why?
- What makes you laugh?
- Best compliment you've ever received?
- Anything else you'd like to add?
- Did the person have a model or idol who they aspired to be as a youth?
- Did the person have specific goals as a youth? How did they go about achieving those goals?
- Who has helped them during their personal or professional career?
- Has there been a defining moment in that person's life that made them decide to take the direction in life that they did?
- Does the person have advice to offer people who are aspiring to be as successful as he/she?
- Tell me something about yourself that people might not readily know.