

Student Interview Guide for the Family or Informal Caregiver of an Older Adult

Interview a family member or informal (non-paid) caregiver.

1. Introduce yourself and state the purpose of the interview.
2. Inform the caregiver being interviewed that this interview is for a class project and that information from the interview will be shared only with the teacher and classmates.
3. Inform the caregiver that his/her name will be kept confidential.
4. Before starting the interview, ask if these terms to protect privacy are acceptable. Ensure that the caregiver is willing to continue.
5. If the terms are not agreed upon, say thank you for your time and consider finding someone else to interview.

Sample Interview Introductory Statement:

Once there is an agreement to continue the interview, discuss why this interview is important to your learning.

Example statement:

“Thank you for taking time to talk with me today. Sharing your experience as a caregiver will help advance my learning as a nurse to better understand the perspective of a family caregiver. There are no right or wrong answers to my questions. I just want to hear about your perspective.”

1. What does it mean to you to be a caregiver for your family member?
2. What are the best parts of being a caregiver?
3. Tell me about any experiences you have had with health care professionals that contributed to how you think of your role as a family caregiver?
4. What advice would you give to nurses regarding how to support family caregivers?