



A Crowd-Sourced Cheat-Sheet for Career-Spanning Profile Interviews

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(For more suggested questions and the related story, visit
http://bit.ly/profile_interviews)

Early Years

- What were you like as a kid?
- When did you first realize you were interested in science?
- How did you get started in science? In this field? This topic?

Turning Points

- How did you discover the problems that led to your most important work?
- What have been some challenging or discouraging moments in your career?
- What were the big surprises along your career path?
- What do you wish you had done differently?

The Work

- What is a typical day like when you're working on [X]?
- What aspects of your research are you most proud of?
- Who has influenced your work?
- If you could alter one aspect of your field, what would it be?

Setting

- What does your lab or field site look like, smell like, and/or sound like?
- What's hanging on the walls of your office?
- What do the tools you use look like?

Life Outside Work

- What would you have done for your career if not this, and why?
- When you go out with scientist friends, what do you talk about?
- What are some surprising things that people might not know about you?

Context

- What are some of the main changes you've seen in your field during your career?
- How does the academic culture differ between the institution where you work now and where you worked before?
- What are you looking forward to seeing in your field in the next 10 years? What are you looking forward to that you couldn't have predicted a decade ago?
- What big mysteries in your field remain?