

PARENT INTERVIEW

1997-98

Student's ID code: _____ Country of Origin: _____

Date: _____ RA's code: _____ Parent Interviewed: _____

IMMIGRATION

1-Where did you live in [country of origin] ? _____

2-When did you immigrate to the United States? _____

3-Did your family come all together at the same time? *[If not collect history]*

4-What are some of the reasons why your family decided to come to the United States?

5-Why did you come to this area? _____

6-When you lived in [country of origin] what did you imagine the US was like?

7-Where did you get most of your ideas about the United States?

8a-Is life here different than what you expected? YES NO

b-If so, in what ways?

9a-Do you like living in the US? YES NO

b-What do you like most about living here?

c-What do you like least?

10- Moving from one country to another is a challenge. What makes you stay?

11-What goals do you have for yourself in this country?

12-What does it mean to be an American?

TRANSNATIONAL CONTACTS

13a- Have you returned to [country of origin] since you immigrated? NO YES

b- If so, how many times? Number of returns: _____

c- For what kinds of occasions

d- For how long?

14a- Do you keep in touch with friends and relatives back home? NO YES

b How?

c- And how often?

15- Some immigrants send money to their families back home.

a-Do you send money to family members back home? NO YES

If informant sends money ask:

b-How often do you send money home? _____

c- Does your family rely upon the monies you send? NO YES

16a-Do you keep up with events and political activities in (country of origin)?

NO YES

b-If so, how?

c-Do you vote back home? NO YES

17a-Do you plan to become an American citizen? NO YES WOULD LIKE TO BUT CAN'T

b-Do you keep up with political issues in the US? NO YES

c-If so, how?

18-Do you hope that your child will stay in the U.S. or do you hope that he/she will return to C/O?

19a-What religion were you born into? _____

b-Do you consider yourself (a Catholic, Buddhist...) now? Yes No

(If religion did not change go to 20a. If religion did change, ask):

c- What religion are you a part of now?

d-What brought about this change?

20a- Do you attend church or temple?

b- If so, how often?

c-Do you teach your children about religion? Yes No

Some immigrants receive help from their religious organization when they immigrate.

21a-Is that true for you? NO YES

b-If so, what kind of help did you receive from them?

**THE FUTURE/GETTING
AHEAD**

22-Now I will ask you some questions about your hopes for your children's future. People measure success in different ways. How do you define someone who is successful?

23-What do you hope for your children?

24-What do you do to help your child become successful in this country?

25a- What are the ways to get ahead in the U.S.?

b- In the US, what role do you think school plays in getting ahead?

26-Do you think the chances of success in the US are the same for a (person from country of origin) as they are for an American?

27a-Do you think it matters what a person looks like for them to be successful in this country?

b-[If so,]

How?

28a-What do you think is more important for a son - getting married and having a family or finding a good job or are both equally important?

b-What about for a daughter? What do you think is more important for a daughter - getting married and having a family or finding a good job or are both equally important?

29a- What do you think you would like your child to do for a living when he/she grows up?
(Probe for response)

b- How much school do you think he/she will need to get that job?

HOME

Now I will be asking you some questions about your family.

30-Who lives in your home with you?

NAME	RELATIONSHIP (to child)	AGE (of children)

31a-Do you work here? NO YES

b-If so, what kind of work do you do? *[enter information in table below]*

32a-Did you work in (country of origin)? NO YES

b-If so, what kind of work did you do? *[enter information in table below]*

33a-Does your spouse work here? NO YES

b-If so, what kind of work does he/she do? *[enter information in table below]*

34a-Did your spouse work in (country of origin)? NO YES

b-If so, what kind of work did he/she do? *[enter information in table below]*

	Work-US	Work-C/O	Educational Level
Mother			
Father			

I would like to ask you some questions about you and your spouse's educational experience.

35a- Did you go to school in [country of origin]? NO YES

b-For how many years?

[enter information in table above]

c-Did your spouse go to school in [country of origin]

d-For how many years?

[enter information in table above]

36a-Was your schooling helpful in your life? NO YES

b-If yes, how so?

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION/LITERACY

37-How were schools back home different than schools are here?

38a-What do you like best about schools here?

b-What do you like least about schools here?

39-a- Have you had contact with any of your children's school(s)? NO

YES

b- If so, what kinds of experiences have you had?

40a- Do you think it is appropriate for you to voice an opinion to the teacher or to the principal if you have a concern about your child's education?

NO

YES

b- Why is that?

40c- Do you feel comfortable voicing your opinion to the teacher or to the principal if you have a concern about your child's education?

NO

YES

d- Why is that?

41a-What kind of student would you say your son/daughter was in (country of origin)?

b- What kind of student would you say he/she is here in the US?

42-How do teachers treat most (Chinese, Dominicans, Haitians, Mexicans, or Central American--*select appropriate*) students?

43a-Does your child get most of his/her assignments in on time? NO YES
b-If not, why not?

44a-What kinds of reading materials do you have at home? *[circle all that apply]*
Newspapers Magazines Comic books Books Bible or religious materials

b-How much time do you spend reading every week?
Number of hours _____

45a- Do you think it is important that your children keep up with your native language?
YES NO
b- Why?

46a-How well do you read (native language)? *[show informant choice cards]*
• not at all • not well • well • very well

b-How well do you write(native language)? *[show informant choice cards]*
• not at all • not well • well • very well

47a-How well do you understand English? *[show informant choice cards]*
• not at all • not well • well • very well

b-How well do you speak English? *[show informant choice cards]*
• not at all • not well • well • very well

c-How well do you read English? *[show informant choice cards]*
• not at all • not well • well • very well

d-How well do you write English? *[show informant choice cards]*

- not at all
- not well
- well
- very well

48a- Is your child in a bilingual program? NO YES

b-Do you want your child in a bilingual program? NO YES

c- *If they are not in a bilingual program, ask:*

Why is your child not in a bilingual program?

d- *If they are in a bilingual program, ask:*

What is your experience with your child's bilingual program?

FAMILY SOCIAL SUPPORT

49a- Does your family get together with other friends [from country of origin] on a regular basis?

b- How often?

c- For what kinds of events?

50a- Does your family get together with American friends on a regular basis?

b-How often?

c-For what kinds of events?

51a-When your family has a problem or needs help, who do they usually go to for help?

52-For example, if one of your children became sick and had to be picked up from school, and you could not come, who would help out?

53-If your family got an unexpected bill and you did not have the money to pay it, who would you turn to for help?

54-And what if you were feeling sad and needed someone to talk to, who would you turn to?

55-When your child has problems who do they talk to about them?

FAMILY RELATIONS

56-How much time do you spend with your child everyday?

57a- What kind of relationship did you have with your child before you came to the US?

b- Has this changed since you came to this country? NO YES

c- If so, in what ways?

d- *[If things have changed]* What do you think are the reasons for this/these changes?

58-Do you feel like your children share their worries with you?

59-Disagreements sometimes occur between parents and children. What kinds of things do you disagree about with your child?

60-How do you resolve disagreements?

61-Who does the disciplining in your home?

62-Has that changed since you arrived to the US?

63a-Has your child ever received a poor grade at school? NO YES

b- What are the consequences for your child if they get bad grades?

64-Who helps your child if he/she has a problem with homework?

65-Do you have rules about when your children must be home? NO YES

b-If so, what kinds of rules?

66- In the US, many boys and girls start going out alone with someone of the opposite sex at an early age. What do you think about that?

67a- At what age do you think it is appropriate for a boy to start dating?

b- At what age do you think it is appropriate for a girl to start dating?

68a- Do you think your son or daughter has started dating yet? NO YES

b- If yes, at what age? _____

c- If no, at what age to you plan to let him/her start?

PEERS

69-How much time do your children spend with friends each day?

Number of Hours: _____

70-What kinds of activities do they do with their friends?

71a-Where are most of your children's friends from?

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

72-What neighborhood do you live in? *[Please note address & zip code as well]*

73a-Do you feel safe letting your children walk around your neighborhood?

NO YES

b-If not, what makes you feel your neighborhood is unsafe?

74a-Are there gangs in your neighborhood?

NO YES

b-Are there gangs in your children's school(s)?

NO YES

We are now at the last section of this interview. We will be asking you some questions about your health. If you are uncomfortable with any of the questions, feel free not to answer.

HEALTH

75-Would you say that you are in good health?

76-What about your spouse, would you say that he/she is in good health?

77-How many days in the last three months have you had to stay at home because you were sick?

78-What about your spouse, how many days in the last three months has he/she had to stay at home because he/she was sick?

79-How many days in the last three months have you had to stay in bed because you were sick?

80-What about your spouse, how many days in the last three months has he/she had to stay in bed because he/she was sick?

81-Lately, do you...

[If so, ask Sometimes, Often, or All the Time

0 = *Never*
 1 = *Sometimes*
 2 = *Often*
 3 = *All the Time*

a) Feel nervous	0	1	2	3
b) Feel critical of others	0	1	2	3
c) Have trouble remembering things	0	1	2	3
d) Feel annoyed too easily	0	1	2	3
e) Have stomach aches or headaches	0	1	2	3
f) Not have much energy	0	1	2	3
g) Not feel like eating	0	1	2	3
h) Cry easily	0	1	2	3
i) Feel like something terrible is going to happen	0	1	2	3
j) Feel shy	0	1	2	3
k) Lose your temper too easily	0	1	2	3
l) Feel like your heart is racing	0	1	2	3
m) Feel sad	0	1	2	3
n) Feel not interested in much of anything	0	1	2	3
o) Worry too much	0	1	2	3
p) Feel guilty	0	1	2	3
q) Have trouble making decisions	0	1	2	3
r) Have trouble concentrating	0	1	2	3
s) Feel others do not understand you	0	1	2	3
t) Feel tense	0	1	2	3
u) Eat too much	0	1	2	3
v) Get into arguments too easily	0	1	2	3
w) Feel people do not like you	0	1	2	3
x) Have trouble sleeping	0	1	2	3
y) Feel like you are not as good as other people	0	1	2	3
z) Keep remembering something frightening	0	1	2	3

We are coming to the end of this interview. Your responses have been very helpful.

82- We are hoping to use this information to help schools better serve immigrant children. From your perspective, what could schools do to better meet the needs of your child?

83-We are also hoping to provide information to immigrant parents that would be helpful to them. Do you have any specific questions that you would want answered?

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and for sharing your experiences. We will be meeting with your son or daughter over the coming years and would like to meet with you again one more time in 5 years from now. If you move, please keep in touch with us.

INTERVIEWER COMMENTS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please be sure to obtain contact information before leaving. Explain that since this is a study of five-year duration, it is important that we keep in touch. Ask them to let us know if they move. Add that since all of us sometimes forget details, we would like to have names and contact information for people who are likely to know where they may have moved. Reassure them of confidentiality.

Full Address of Informant Family:

Phone Number(s):

Contacts (include full name, address & phone number)

Relationship:

Contacts (include full name, address & phone number)

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