



The 7 Questions: Eliciting Narrative

Part 1: Personhood

DAILY LIFE (1)	Born/raised, formative experiences, living situation, occupation...
lived history	<i>“Could you walk me through a typical day for you?”</i>
	<i>“How do you spend your time?”</i>
“FAMILY” (2)	<i>“Are there important people in your life, or do you prefer to be on your own?”</i>
support/culture	You can ask about family structure, communication styles, decision making...
STRENGTHS (3)	<i>“Where do you draw strength to get through each day?”</i>
spirituality, meaning	<i>“Some people draw strength from spirituality, is that helpful for you?”</i>
	<i>“What brings you meaning...purpose?”</i>

Part 2: Illness Experience

ASSESS (4)	<i>“How do you see the situation you and your family are facing?”</i>
perspective	<i>“From your perspective, how do you think things are going?”</i>
	<i>“What have you already been told about your illness?”</i>
	Avoid asking, ‘what do you understand?’ It can feel like a test
HOPES (5)	<i>“What are you hoping for in the coming days? Weeks? Months?”</i>
	Hopes can also be important life tasks to accomplish.
	Avoid asking about ‘goals,’ this is our language.
CONCERNS (6)	<i>“As you think about the future, what concerns do you have?”</i>
worries	<i>“Is there anything you are worried about?”</i>
EXPERIENCE (7)	<i>“What are your past experiences with serious illness or caring for others who are seriously ill?”</i>
with illness	<i>“How has this illness impacted you and your family?”</i>