

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS  
RELATED TO WISDOM  
FOR INTERVIEWS WITH THE ELDERLY  
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- Do you think you are wiser now than you were when you were younger?
- Follow-up on previous question: when you look back over your life, do you sometimes ask how you could have made some of the choices you made? What do you know now that you didn't know then?
- What does it mean to you to be wise?
- Do you have any "words of wisdom" you would share with the younger generation?
- Have your values changed over your life?
- Many people decide at some point that they want to simplify their life. Did that happen to you?
- Many people find as they grow older that their priorities change. Did that happen to you? How, or in what way?
- Similar follow-up questions on any of the other attitudes or concepts that have been associated with wisdom. SEE PREVIOUS NOTES. Examples:
  - Do you think you now have more realistic goals than you did as a youth?
  - Have you changed your priorities as you have grown older? In what way?
  - Some people find that as they grow older they change the degree to which they are concerned with the opinions of others. Has this happened to you? Explain, describe, give examples. (NOTE: Notice how this question is phrased neutrally: it could be that concern with the opinion of others has increased, or it could be that it has decreased.)
  - Some people find they get upset at the way things are and want them to be different; other people find it easier to just accept the world the way it is. How would you describe yourself in this area? Has this dimension changed for you as you have grown older?
  - etc., etc.: refer to class discussions of components of wisdom, and ask about any of them.