

Name (spelling), Age, Where you live, any other things you'd like to share...student of the year etc.

Before we start I'd love to know how hard the stop is. Time wise.

### **GROWING UP/LIFE STORY**

Where were you born?

What was Murfreesboro like in the 60's and 70's when you were a kid?

What was your family like?

What did your parents do for work?

Are your parents and or/siblings literate?

Did you go to school, and if so where?

Did your family think that education and literacy were important?

Did you like school?

Do you read at all as a child? If so, what level did you stop?

Did you have friends at school, were you popular, teased?

Did you drop out? If so, why?

Can you tell me what went wrong in your educational life that meant you didn't learn how to read and write? Do you have any kind of learning disability?

You mentioned that you are currently on disability, could you tell me more about that?

How did it happen? Talk me through it, were you working beforehand?

If so, what did you do?

If not, do you think that literacy held you back from finding work?

### **NAVIGATING LIFE**

What was it like growing up and not being literate?

How much could you read and write?

What are some things that are challenging to someone with literacy problems, that I might not think about?

What are some workarounds that you use?

What is it like trying to find work/Navigating disability? How do you do that?

Do you have a drivers license? If so, how do you know where you're going? How do you figure out traffic signs?

If not, how do you navigate a bus schedule?

Have you picked up the wrong things in grocery stores, or made mistakes like that?

What was the worst situation you have found yourself in because you weren't able to read?

Are there any advantages to not reading and writing? Do you think you've developed strengths in other areas to compensate?

Do you think the world looks different to people who can't read?

How do you think not being able to read has affected your self-esteem and confidence? Both as a kid, as a young man, and now as an older man.

Is it embarrassing?

Is there anything you wish that literate people knew? Behavior that you wish they'd change?

## **RELATIONSHIPS**

Do you have kids? Partner?

If so, do they know that you can't read?

If they didn't, how did you manage those relationships, how did you keep that from them?

How do you think having a secret affected those relationships?

Do they know you're at the Literacy Program?

Have they helped you to navigate the world?

How do you think your literacy has affected those relationships?

I read a poem you wrote about your mother, it sounds like you were very close. Can you tell me about that?

What was special about her?

Did your mother know how to read?

## **NALC EXPERIENCE**

What were your opportunities to learn how to read before?

You said this was your 3rd time at NALC, can you tell me about the first 2?

What happened to make you come back?

What is different about this time?

What was it like the first time you walked into the program?

What is their intake like?

Were you nervous? Defensive?

You've lived your whole life and gotten by at your previous reading level, what was different about this time? What made you decide to come in? What was your breaking point?

What do you like about learning how to read?

What is your least favorite part of lessons?

What reading level would you like to achieve?

Do you use books on tape or podcasting at all?

How has learning how to read and write changed the way you look at yourself?

How has your life changed since you moved from 1st grade reading level to 3rd grade reading level?

Has it changed the way you process language and think?

## **You're a Writer**

I am someone who writing means a lot to, it helps me process the world around me, have you found that with your poetry? Does it help you understand the world in the same way?

Has writing changed your identity?

Do you think you've always been a writer?

How did you discover that? What was writing your first poem like?

Aside from the obvious, what do you think the major difference is between reading and non reading people?

**Now vs Then**

Is it scary being able to read?

Are there too many other voices or information?

Is it everything you hoped it would be?

Is there anything you miss about your life before?

Do you feel less alone?

Is there anything that is talking to you that wasn't before? Signs etc?

When I was a kid, glasses story. Have you had any experiences like that?