

## Possible Interview Questions about the Family Walter vom Saal

1. **How has the American family changed** in the last 50 years?
2. **ACTIVITY:** draw a **family diagram** such as this:



----- = COMMUNICATION  
 ===== = GOOD COMMUNICATION  
 ~~~~~~ = BAD COMMUNICATION

Also, next to each name, write a "role" for the person.

*[NOTE: this is an incomplete diagram and will be explained further in class.]*

3. In your family, what were the **communication patterns**?
4. In your family, what were the **family roles**? (Examples: good child; troublemaker; replacement mother; "baby; etc.)
5. In your family, what were the **family rules**? How were the rules made? How were they changed?
6. In your family, what were the **hidden rules**? Examples:
  - No one sits in Dad's chair.
  - You are expected to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Everyone must \_\_\_\_\_.
  - You should never \_\_\_\_\_.)
7. In your family, what were some **family secrets**? (examples: Uncle Jack is an alcoholic. Aunt Sue was previously married. Cousin Judy had an illegitimate child.)
8. In your family, how were **conflicts resolved**?
  - list good ways, bad ways.
9. Have there been **changes over time** in any of the above?
10. Considering your family of origin, **what characteristics would you keep** as you develop a family of your own?
11. Considering your family of origin, **what characteristics would you change** as you develop a family of your own?
12. Ask yourself: **what impact did my family have on me**? Name one important effect your family had on what you believe, and one important effect your family had on the kind of person you are.
13. Debate the following assertion: **"You are what you are because of your family."** Give one example that argues for this statement. Give one example that argues against it.
14. Discuss/debate the following:
  - good families do everything together.
  - in good families, everyone is treated equally.
  - in good families, there is no fighting.
  - in good families, your parents are your friends.
15. List the **five most important characteristics** of an ideal family.