

# PROJECT YELLOW DRESS

**PYD**

## Second+ Generation Interview Questions

One of the goals of PYD is to create a space for the newer generations of Southeast Asians to come together and share their experiences. We want to hear what it was like for you growing up Southeast Asian American, and to help shed light on some of the issues that affect our community at large.

Many people have reached out to us and told us they wanted to contribute to PYD, but did not know where to begin. The following questions are meant more as suggestions for talking points, and you should feel free to respond in any way you want to. You can write your response in a narrative, pick and choose questions to respond to, or focus on one theme and really delve into it. We also encourage you to add your own questions, to really make this response your own. We know that the Southeast Asian community is incredibly diverse, and that not all participants will necessarily even self-identify as Southeast Asian or American, so please do not feel constrained by the wording of the questions below. We welcome all responses, no matter how short or long, and whether you are Southeast Asian, have family members who are part of the Boat People legacy, or allies of the community. We will also include a Microsoft Word version of this document in our “Resources” tab on our website.

We also have a few maps available on our resources page. While some people prefer to express themselves using the written word, others may find visuals to be helpful; some may even like the combination of the two. The first map, which is a closeup of Southeast Asia, is to show your and/or your family’s journey from Southeast Asia, and the second map, a world map, is so you can plot your family’s diaspora. However, please feel free to use or make other maps, like one that highlights your own personal story or shows us your neighborhood.

## **Interview Questions**

### **Introduction**

- Please introduce yourself. Where were you born and raised?
- How did you hear about this project? What encouraged you to participate?
- Where are your parents from? Are they both refugees/immigrants? When and how did they arrive in the United States?
- Did your parents ever talk about their experiences of being refugees/immigrants? What was said, or not said? What was your reaction when you found out? What is your reaction now?

### **Culture and Identity**

- When you hear the term “Southeast Asian,” what words or images emerge?
- Is there such a thing as the typical “Southeast Asian American experience?” Are there any stereotypes you have heard or have had to face being Southeast Asian/Asian American? How would you define the “Model Minority Myth?” Has it played a role in your own life?
- What was it like for you growing up Southeast Asian American?
- In what ways do your parents or your culture shape your identity?
- What languages do you speak or understand? Can you read or write in these languages? What is the level of fluency for each? What do you consider your first language? Is there a language barrier issue within your family?
- Was there ever a moment when you felt extremely ashamed or extremely proud to be Southeast Asian?
- Have you ever visited Southeast Asia? If so, what were your impressions? If not, if you wanted to travel there, where would you go and why?

### **Society and Pop Culture**

- What are your thoughts on the lack of Asian American/Southeast Asian American/Ethnic Studies in most schools? Did you ever personally learn about Vietnamese Boat People in your history classes?
- There are a lot of issues in the Asian and Southeast Asian communities that are considered a bit taboo to discuss, such as mental health, domestic violence, sexuality, abortion, and even politics. Have you ever been part of conversations or instances involving these or other issues? What steps can we take to help remove some of the stigma from these issues?
- Mainstream media has often been criticized for its lack of or trivialized portrayal of Asians and Asian Americans. What do you think? Who was the first Asian or Asian American actor or media personality you remember seeing on TV or in the movies? Who are your favorite Asian or Asian American actors? Can you name any Southeast Asian actors?
- More and more Asian Americans are forging paths in sports, whether it be on ice, on the baseball field, in the ring, or on the gridiron. Does an athlete’s race and/or ethnicity influence your interest in a sport, or who you root for? Do you think that your race or ethnicity may influence your chances of “making it” mainstream sports? Can you name any athletes of Southeast Asian descent?