MLA QUESTIONS

1. TEACHING
Remember: At most smaller institutions teaching is more important than at large research-oriented schools. You can show interest in teaching by volunteering information. Show that you have ideas about program development and extracurricular activities.

1. Which textbooks do you use now in first/second-year language instruction? You like it? Why/why not?

2. Which textbooks would suggest for ***? Why?

3. Which approaches do you use in elementary language teaching? What factors influence the approaches you choose (large/small classes, community college vs. Ivy League, etc.)?

4. What is your experience with / approach to computer-assisted instruction in the language classroom?

5. Would you be willing to co-ordinate a first-year language program?

6. Could you teach a course on under-water aerobics--or just about any other imaginable topic?

7. How would you design a undergraduate course in your specialty? Which texts would you include?

8. How can you make Baroque literature (fill in the blanks) palatable to American undergraduates?

9. How would you design a graduate course (survey course, seminar) in your specialty? Which texts would you include?

10. What course would you like to teach? (Think of a couple of courses you would like to teach!)

11. What method or approach do you use and why?

12. How do you integrate technology in your teaching?

13. How do you integrate culture in your teaching?

14. How do you teach grammar? (subjunctive, preterite/imperfect, etc.)

15. What was your worst experience teaching?

16. What motivates you?

17. What is a success story you can share with us?

18. What was the best class you ever taught?

19. What was the worst class you ever taught? How did you handle problems?

20. Are you familiar with ACTF? NCATE?

21. How do your education and training contribute to your career?
22. If you designed an upper level course and a graduate course on the same topic, how would they differ?

23. What textbook do you like and why?

24. What is a student’s biggest failure?

25. What is a teacher’s biggest failure

26. If you had ten minutes left and do not have any more planned, what would you do?

27. What is your most effective assignment?

28. What do you find most difficult about teaching? Have you overcome that difficulty?

29. How would you handle a controversial issue in class?

30. How would you teach TAs of different programs? Same answer as above.

31. What web resources would you use in your X class?

32. In a class in which you incorporate films, would you watch the film in or out of the class? Why?

33. What would you say if a student asks you for your personal opinion? (religion, politics)?

34. What has been your most embarrassing moment when teaching?

35. How do you balance lecturing time and discussion time? How do you introduce and handle difficult topics (such as discrimination)?

36. How do you wake up students in your eight o’clock class?

37. How do you approach survey courses?

38. What textbooks do you like for your X class?

39. What is the major gap that current textbooks have nowadays? How do you compensate?

40. Text-oriented. Interactive activities (multimedia materials as a way to extend …)

41. How do you handle plagiarism?

42. Being from Spain, how can you teach Latin American culture?

43. Could you teach a course in translation? In Spanish for Business? For Law Enforcement?

44. What websites do you recommend students for practice? For cultural research?

45. Why do you want to become a Spanish professor?

46. How do you manage disciplinary problems?
47. How do you manage heritage students?

48. What particular students do you find it hardest to deal with?

49. How do you make sure you pay personal attention to all students?

RESEARCH

Questions about the dissertation often serve as warm-ups. Here, you can show that you can express ideas and that you can engage in a scholarly discussion.

49. What is the main idea of your dissertation? Tell us about your dissertation--in two minutes or less.

50. In what way does it contribute to scholarship? What is the unique contribution of your dissertation to scholarship?

51. Why should I care about your dissertation?

52. Why did you choose this topic? How did you get into this topic?

53. What is your methodology? Why do you use this approach?

54. What does the timetable on the completion of your dissertation look like?

55. What will your next project be? What is your next book going to be about?

56. What does your research program for the next five years look like?

57. Which book would you like to be famous for in twenty years?

58. What are your research plans for the near future?

59. Do you like collaborating in others for research? Explain.

60. What is your dissertation about?

61. How did you become interested in your area of expertise? Tell us about your most recent publication.

62. How do you reconcile the conflict between teaching and research?

63. Why would other people be interested in your area of expertise?

64. What presses might be interested in your thesis book?

65. In what journals do you hope to land your work?

66. How does your research influence your teaching?

67. What does your dissertation contribute to its field? And to other fields?
68. How far along is your dissertation right now?

69. What are the leading scholars in your field?

70. Do you think you can get outside grants to support your research?

71. Will you be able to handle research with a 4-4 teaching load?

72. I see you wrote an article on X. What can you tell me about it?

DEPARTMENT
73. Why should we hire you? How would you contribute to our department?

74. **Why you interested in our department?** Why you decided apply after reading the job posting?

75. Are you a team player? Explain.

76. Would you be interested in helping us create a MA/MAT program?

77. Would you be interested in coordinating language sections for a reduced teaching load?

78. How do you see yourself fitting in our program?

79. Would you like to build connections with other programs? Which ones? Why?

80. If you were to supervise a thesis or dissertation, could you do it?

81. How would you decrease the number of drop-outs at the ABD stage?

82. How is your work relevant to the department?

83. Have you had any experience in study abroad program? Could you supervise this?

84. Have you had any experience in distance learning? Could you help us set up a program? Would you be interested in teaching distance learning courses?

85. We trying to start an X program in department, what courses and support system you think we need?

86. Do you think you would be comfortable with our mission or our tradition?

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
87. We at *** University don't have a language requirement. How would you go about attracting students into our language classes?

88. We at *** have problems attracting enough students to our upper division German courses. Do you have any strategies how this could be achieved?

89. Do you have an interest in extracurricular activities?
90. Would you be willing to run German House, Film Club, German Club, German Play, Stammtisch, etc.?

91. What's the place of culture in a FL curriculum?

**PROFESSION**

92. What are the most pressing problems facing our profession in the next decade?

93. How can we generate more enrollment in our elementary language classes?

94. What is the value of language instruction in our university curriculum today?

95. What is the value of a humanities education in our technological age? Do we act responsibly by convincing our students to become humanities majors?

96. Is the language requirement good or bad for our profession?

97. What is German Studies? What is your definition of German Studies?

98. Should we continue to offer traditional literature classes, or should we frame them in a German Studies curriculum?

**Loaded questions**

99. Do you see yourself teaching elementary language as part of your professional future?

100. Would a young woman like yourself be comfortable in our community? in our department? in our foreign language department?

**More questions…**

101. **Provide us with a brief chronological outline of your teaching/tutoring experience.**

102. What is your experience with underprepared students?

103. Describe a situation where you dealt with student in crisis and your role in a solution to the situation.

104. Describe your experience, if any, with working with an entire group of 17-19 year old students.

105. Describe your experience, if any, with working with a group of people of vastly different ages, e.g. 16-80 year old students.

106. What is your experience with learning disabled students?

107. Give us an example of your ability to work as a member of a team.

108. Give us an example of your ability to be the leader of a team.

109. **Describe your professional goals for the next 2 years, 5 years.**
110. Describe how you have used technology in your classroom.

111. What is your greatest strength, greatest weakness as a teacher?

**Seven questions that may catch you a little off guard:**

112. What's the best course you've taken as a graduate student and why?

113. How do you fit with the faculty in our department?

114. What is your philosophy of language? (this is different from #3 above).

115. Asked by outside your field. Can you explain the value of your work to an educated layperson?

116. How would you teach...?

117. What is the cutting edge in your field and how does your work extend it?

118. In which journals do you intend to publish?

**Nine questions asked in almost every interview**

119. At what point in the dissertation process are you?

120. Describe your research. What audiences are you addressing? What direction do you plan to take with your research? How will you go about revising your dissertation for publication?
   
   Have a good articulate description in short and longer versions. This was the one area where everyone stumbles! Keep it short and sweet, but be crystal clear. You may also be asked to talk about the limitations in your research. Don't be afraid to acknowledge these, particularly if you can use this as an opportunity to indicate where you intend to go in your research. (My doctoral research, you see, is only the necessary first step...)

121. What is your philosophy of foreign language teaching?

122. Why would you like to be a professor specifically at our university in our department?

123. Prepare to talk about several courses you'd like to teach, after having sized up the institution's needs.

124. Tell us how your research has influenced your teaching. In what ways have you been able to bring the insights of your research to your courses at the undergraduate level?

125. For small, liberal arts colleges: Do you understand the liberal arts college mission, are you a dedicated teacher, and will you give your students the time and personal attention that we demand from all our faculty members?

126. We conceive of our campus as one large community. What non-or extra-academic activities would you be interested in sponsoring or participating in?

127. If you were organizing a special symposium or mini-conference, which scholars could you pick up the phone to call?