1. **Write Your Own Story First**
   Assemble papers, photos, documents, and heirlooms; identify those in photos using pencil

2. **Interview Elderly Relatives**
   Hints are at http://www.cyndislist.com/oral.htm or http://genealogybybarry.com/genealogy-150-questions-ask-family-members-lives/ or http://diy.storycorps.org/great-questions-list/

3. **Start with What You Know and Build on it**

4. **Organize from the Start**
   Pedigree charts and Family Group Sheets (provided) are good to use
   Use a logical filing system (folders—real or on the computer—for individuals and/or families)
   Share what you find, and keep an address book of correspondents

5. **Keep Your Focus!**
   Learn as much as you can about one ancestor at a time (or one location at a time)

6. **The Easy Way Out is Usually the Wrong Way Out – Never Assume!**

7. **Know Your Resources and How to Use Them**
   Original, derivative, compiled and unknown sources – Record Your Searches

8. **Learn Where to Research and Where Records are Located**

9. **Consider Variations in Spelling**

10. **Join a Society**
    National for methods, state and local for obscure records and to connect with other researchers.

11. **Document and Cite Your Sources**
    Guide: Elizabeth Shown Mills: *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*
    Who (author of source), What (title or record title, type of record), when (publication date, access date), where (location, publisher, city, state, URL)

12. **Be Nice!**

13. **Hiring a Genealogist**
    Best to do this for focused needs; Negotiate; There is NEVER a guarantee of results; Cost: $30 per hour and up; Finding professionals: Association of Professional Genealogists (https://www.apgen.org/)
Beginning Genealogy - Online Resources

http://www.genealogy.com/uni-begin.html - Beginning genealogy short course (free!); other basic genealogical resources.


http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research/ - links to information about record types in the National Archives; hosts of links to numerous other topics on different kinds of records.

http://genealogy.about.com/library/lessons/blintro.htm - introduction to genealogy short course, with lessons on basics, family and home sources, research basics, and vital records.

http://www.familytreetemplates.net/preview/Ancestor_Sheet - Family Group Sheet
https://www.familytreetemplates.net/preview/pedigree_chart - Pedigree Chart
(There are numerous printable ones online.)


https://www.library.ucla.edu/destination/center-oral-history-research/resources/conducting-oral-histories-family-members - UCLA Libraries pages on conducting oral histories with family members


Beginning Genealogy - Books

