



2 below zero

Conversation Starter: Death's Footprint

1. Why is it discomfoting for many people to talk about death?
2. Have you thought about or made your death plans? Why or why not?
3. If so, what are your plans? Who have you told them to?
4. What kind of music would you like at your memorial service? Any specific titles?
5. Upon your death, what's more important: Your desires, or those of your family, friends, spouse or partner? In other words, who should have the final say?
6. In the grieving process, how important is it for you to see your dead loved ones, one last time?
7. Do you enjoy spending time in graveyards—or do you whistle past them? Why?
8. What's more important: the historical and religious significance of cemeteries, or land and habitat conservation? Why?
9. The Catholic Church recently ran an ad campaign in *Newsweek* to remind people to memorialize their dead. Why do you suppose it did so?
10. How do you balance the needs of the living against the needs of the dead?

Related books

The American Way of Death, Jessica Mitford

Grave Matters, Mark Harris

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers, Mary Roach

The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade,
Thomas Lynch (also a PBS "Frontline" special)

Related TV

HBO's "Six Feet Under" series