
INTERVIEWS

Method 1: Conventional Interviews

Interviews are a series of questions and answers between two or more people. They can be conducted in person or via other forms of communication such as online (via Skype etc.) or on the telephone. In a conventional interview, there are two roles – the interviewer (the person who asks questions) and the interviewee (the person who answers them). They can be present and/or recorded in text, as audio pieces or video recordings. Their general purpose is to get to know the interviewee better.

TOP TIPS

- Choose a topic and person – Think about a broad or specific topic you'd like to know more about and who would be able to talk about this topic
- Devise a list of questions – Write 5 – 10 questions, ranging from broad/open questions to specific/closed questions that you'd like to ask your interviewee
- Decide on an appropriate medium – Decide which medium (text, audio, video) you will capture and share your interview, and how 'edited' it will be

Method 2: Dialogue Interviews (A Community Reporting for Insight storytelling technique)

These are peer-to-peer 'interviews' that do not have pre-determined questions. Instead, an opening question (i.e. a conversation starter) is asked which enables the storyteller to start to tell their story and then the Community Reporter recording the story may then ask any questions within this storytelling process that naturally occurs to them. In essence, the structure of these interviews mimics our day-to-day conversations, and rather than having a set list of questions, the questions and interactions that take place are those what naturally occur as the story progresses. You can record these as either video or audio stories.

TOP TIPS

- A good opening question – Ideally this should be an open question that enables the person being interviewed to start to talk freely about the topic you want them to talk to you about. (e.g. *Can you tell me about your experiences at the Dentist?*)
- Being courteous with your questions – Remember that people may not always want to answer the questions that you ask them and they have a right not answer questions that they don't want to. Try to phrase your questions gently, so that they do not feel intrusive or abrupt. (e.g. *Would you mind telling me a bit more about why your job is important to you?*)
- Establishing a good rapport with the person you are interviewing – You could do this before the interview by talking a bit about yourself, Community Reporting, why you are interviewing them or general chit-chat. You can also do this during the interview by listening to what the person is saying, responding to what they say in an appropriate way and using your body language positively. (e.g. *Nodding whilst the person is talking, or smiling at apt points*).