

Shirley Rose/505A Fall 2005

Resources for Interviewing for Profile Project

Some websites with potentially useful material on interviewing

Writing Their Way Into Purdue Website: "Tips from the Advisory Committee"

http://www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/engl/ICaP/instructor_resources/english106_resources/teaching_approaches/wtwip/wtwip/index.html

Don't overlook this resource from the WTWIP website. At this URL, you'll find a link to a Word file with advice from the WTWIP Advisory Committee on how to conduct interviews for the Profile project (or make arrangements to talk with others around campus who will be resources for course projects). Since it's a Word file, you can easily download, customize, and distribute to your students.

Journalism.org: The Art of Interviewing

<http://www.journalism.org/resources/tools/reporting/interviewing/print.asp>

Written for journalists and journalism students, but lots of useful advice from different sources. Part of a larger website students may find interesting.

Study Guides and Strategies: Interviewing for Class Projects

<http://www.studygs.net/interview.htm>

Fairly detailed, if abstract, advice. Part of a larger study guides website students may find interesting

Genealogy.com: Interviewing Mom and Grandma: Oral History Tips

http://www.genealogy.com/95_carmack.html

Good advice on the importance of having clear goals for interview.

Process Guides: Process Guide #6: Interview Techniques

<http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/staffdev/tpss99/processguides/interviewing.html>

Standard interview tips. Part of an interesting larger ed tech website—worth exploring.

The Smithsonian Oral History and Interviewing Guide

<http://www.folklife.si.edu/resources/pdf/InterviewingGuide.pdf>

A PDF of an well-designed, readable 35-page booklet on collecting oral histories and conducting interviews.

Suggestions:

If the timing works out so that you're meeting in a computer classroom, you could have students do search for online advice on interviewing, review and evaluate it, and report on its usefulness to the class as a whole.

Another approach would be to have students compare advice from several different sites and come up with a list of things everyone agrees on and a list of things about which different sources disagree.

Consider having students role-play/practice interviewing. You could invite a guest to class to be interviewed, then debrief with the interviewee and the class.

Screen an example of a video profile (an episode of "Across Indiana" perhaps) and point out the way interview elements are integrated into the profile.

SKR's additional tips:

Make sure students start early on identifying a profile subject and setting up the interviews. Keep emphasizing that they have to plan on extra time in case their interviewee cancels or doesn't show up.

Remind students that they might consider interviewing someone closely associated with their actual profile subjects in order to get a broader perspective.