

Conducting Street Interviews

Lesson #19



Focus Question: What can you learn from your experience conducting “on the street” interviews?

Objectives:

- Students will demonstrate ability to conduct interviews with people in a public setting or if necessary, on school grounds.
- Students will be able to reflect upon their experience conducting “on the street” interviews.

Handouts:

- Crew Roles and Responsibilities for Interviews
- Organizing the Shoot for Interviews
- Release Form

Equipment/Materials:

- DV Cameras (one per group)
- Microphone (one per group)
- Headphones and Cable (one per group)
- Mini DV tapes (at least one per group)
- Clipboards
- Newsprint and Markers

Preparation for Lesson:

1. VIEW “CONDUCTING STREET INTERVIEWS” ON THE TEACHER DVD (4 MIN)



Notice how students work together with minimal teacher direction to put together the equipment, learning from each other and from their mistakes. On the street, students are nervous approaching people, experience rejection from several potential interviewees and have difficulties in working together effectively as a team. Notice, however, that even after just a few interviews on the street they are more confident and work together more comfortably.

2. PREPARE INTERVIEWEE RELEASE FORM (10 MIN)

Students will need to have a release form signed by all interviewees in order to be able to use the footage. See the following sample to know what kind of language to include. Make copies so that each group has at least 10 blank release forms.

Warm Up:

REVIEW DO’S AND DON’TS LIST (5 MIN)

Have students review their “Dos” and “Don’ts” list and circle the ones they will concentrate on when they go out on their first interview.

Lesson:

1. PREPARATION (10-15 MIN)

- Gather equipment. Each group will need a camera kit including: a camera, a microphone with cable, headphones, a tape and their questions on a clipboard. Make sure batteries are charged and do a sound check with the microphone and headphones connected.

Ideally your students will conduct interviews in a public setting with strangers. However, if students cannot leave school grounds or if you are located in a rural or suburban setting where finding people to interview on the street is difficult, conduct interviews in school classrooms or on school grounds.

It is best if students have multiple opportunities to conduct ‘on the street’ interviews so that they can improve their skills as interviewers, camera/sound operators, directors and talent scouts based on experience. However, if you have limited time and students will only be conducting interviews once, make sure they are well prepared so that they obtain usable footage and feel successful in their first interview experience.

- Discuss protocol for going out onto the street (stay with their group, rotate crew roles, always obtain permission prior to beginning to shoot, turn camera off in between interviews, return on time, etc.).
- Have each group fill out the *Organizing the Shoot* sheet. Students should rotate roles with each new interview so that they all gain experience in each role.
- Distribute release forms and remind students to have all interviewees sign before doing the interview.

2. CONDUCT INTERVIEWS (TIMING DEPENDS)

- You may prefer to have one adult with each group, depending on the age of your students and the location.
- Instruct students to find an area that is heavily trafficked so that they can interview multiple people.
- Make sure students conduct multiple interviews, switching crew roles according to the *Organizing the Shoot* sheet.

Share (10 min):

- Hang three newspaper papers around the room with these prompts:
 - Going out to interview people on the street, I felt . . .
 - I learned from today's interviews that . . .
 - Next time I go out to interview people, I will remember to . . .
- As soon as students return to the room, have them jot down their responses.

Journal:

Think about your experience interviewing people today. What did you do well? What was frustrating? What would you improve on next time? What was the most interesting or most surprising answer that you received? Why did that answer strike you as interesting and/or surprising?

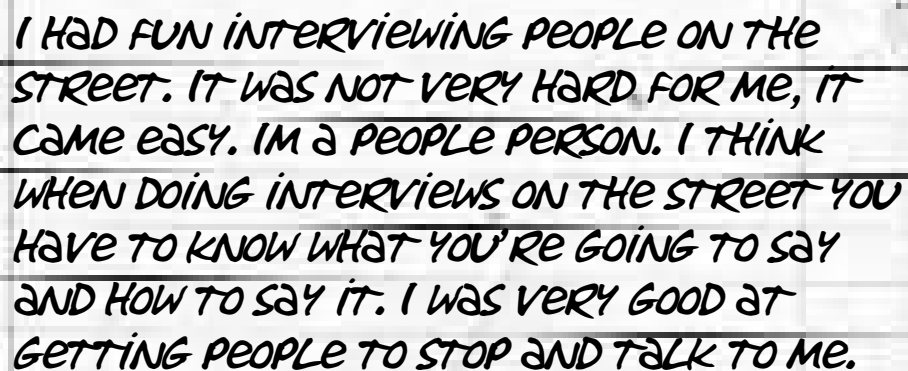
Lesson 19 Meets Standards:

Language Arts
NYS Standard 1
NYS Standard 4

NCTE Standard 4
NCTE Standard 7
NCTE Standard 8

Technology
NETS Standard 2
NETS Standard 4

Career Development and Occupational Studies
NYS Standard 1
NYS Standard 3a



I HAD FUN INTERVIEWING PEOPLE ON THE STREET. IT WAS NOT VERY HARD FOR ME, IT CAME EASY. IM A PEOPLE PERSON. I THINK WHEN DOING INTERVIEWS ON THE STREET YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY AND HOW TO SAY IT. I WAS VERY GOOD AT GETTING PEOPLE TO STOP AND TALK TO ME.

Interviewing people on the street is a lot harder and more frustrating than I thought. The hardest thing was getting the guts to ask total strangers. Also it was frustrating when you finally got the guts to ask and they say NO.

At first, I felt nervous with interviewing people, then I started loosening up. I felt motivated to understand the common opinion of people on the streets. Plus I liked getting to practice my skills as a creative talker because I think to make a good and successful interviewer you have to keep the person interested and you have to have an outgoing and confident appearance.

Organizing the Shoot for Interviews

Interview #: _____

Director: _____ Interviewer: _____

Cameraperson: _____ Soundperson: _____

Scout/Crowd Control: _____ Note Taker: _____

Interview #: _____

Director: _____ Interviewer: _____

Cameraperson: _____ Soundperson: _____

Scout/Crowd Control: _____ Note Taker: _____

Interview #: _____

Director: _____ Interviewer: _____

Cameraperson: _____ Soundperson: _____

Scout/Crowd Control: _____ Note Taker: _____

Shot/Scene #: _____

Talent: _____

Director: _____ Cameraperson: _____

Soundperson: _____ Script Supervisor: _____

Interviewee Release Form

I _____, hereby release my image, likeness and the sound of my voice, as recorded for use in a video documentary. I agree that the footage may be edited and used, in whole or in part, in all media, including, but not limited to, audio and video cassettes, CD-ROM, DVD, Internet, television, radio, and cable broadcast, and for all other purposes in perpetuity throughout the world. I consent to the use of my name, likeness, voice and biographical information in connection with the distribution and promotion of the video documentary.

I expressly release _____, from any defamation and other claims I may have arising out of the above-described materials and hereby waive all rights to inspect and approve the finished product or its use.

I acknowledge this release is firm and final and I sign this document to signify my agreement.

Name (PRINT): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone (optional) _____