

Interviewing Assignment

OBJECTIVES

STEP 1 | LEARN

Review the components of effective interviews with students; if desired, use the Introduction to Interviewing presentation. Be sure to remind students that effective interviewing requires preparation in learning background information about the subject and in writing open-ended questions. Interviewing also requires the reporter to be focused and to use good listening skills as they interview so they can ask appropriate follow-up questions. Finally, good interviews require the reporter to review their notes afterwards to decide upon the best quotes that can be used in a story or caption. Before moving on to practice, ask students to download the StoryCorps app onto their phones (if available). This app allows students to (1) record interviews and (2) look for questions they can ask those they are interviewing.

STEP 2 | PRACTICE

Assign the Interviewing Assignment so students can practice interviewing and you can generate content for your yearbook. After each interview is complete, students should place each Interviewing Assignment Part 2 sheet into a binder for use in the yearbook at a later time. This guarantees a bank of interviews that will be handy as you create your book.

STEP 3 | ASSESS

Completion of 10 interviews.



21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Students will effectively communicate with members of their school community as they practice interviewing skills.



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

National Common Core Writing Standards and Oral Expression and Listening Standards

ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.2, CCRA.SL.2:

Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media.

ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.6, CCRA.SL.6:

Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks.

ELA-Literacy.W.9-12.6, CCRA.W.6: Use technology to produce and publish shared writing products.



ISTE STANDARDS

1A: Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas.

2B: Communicate ideas effectively using a variety of media.

Interviewing Assignment - Part 1

Select ten members of the school community to interview. Each member must represent a different area of the yearbook. Fill in the chart below to plan your interviews.

Section	Activity	Person to Interview	Date/Time/Place of Interview
Student Life			
Clubs			
Fine Arts			
Academics			
Athletics			
Staff			
Freshman			
Sophomore			
Junior			
Senior			

After preparing questions, interview the above sources carefully, taking notes. From your notes, identify quotable quotes or facts for possible use in a quick read story. Use the attached template for help. When you are finished you should have ten templates filled out for ten different people from ten different areas.

Interviewing Assignment - Part 1

Suggestions to get you started:

- 1) What is the (place superlative here—e.g. craziest thing, happiest moment, etc.) that happened in (place activity here—e.g. yearbook, tennis, etc.)?
- 2) What one thing about (place activity here) do you think you will remember most in 10 years?
- 3) If you could, what one thing would you change about (place activity here)?
- 4) If you could do one thing over again regarding (place activity here), what would it be?

These are just examples; do not use only these questions for your interviews. Brainstorm at least five open-ended questions below. Note that some might need to be changed depending upon your subject. When you interview, be sure to always have prepared questions, but don't be afraid to ask follow up questions or go in a different direction if necessary. Have fun and make the person you are interviewing feel like an important part of the school community—and ultimately the yearbook!

Questions to ask:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Interviewing Assignment - Part 2

Make sure to fill in neatly and completely! Complete this sheet for EACH person you interview.

Person Interviewed:

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Grade _____

Have you spelled this person's name correctly? Please ask the person you are interviewing to review and to sign below that their name is spelled correctly.

X _____

Section in Yearbook (Circle those that apply)

Student Life

Clubs

Academics

Athletics

Staff

Freshmen

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Fine Arts

Take detailed notes during the interview and record on your phone, if available. Use the other side of this sheet if you need more room). This should include questions asked so you remember what you asked when you read your notes later.

Notes:

Possible Quote pulled from notes:

Facts (memories) pulled from notes: