
Performance Task & Interview Transcript

Student Name _____

FOCUS QUESTIONS:

1. When did you have to change a long-held belief?
2. When did you realize injustice exists?
3. When did you learn something important about your past?
4. When was it difficult or unsafe for you to live somewhere?
5. When did you realize there were environmental problems?
6. When did you develop a new relationship with food?
7. When did you break with tradition?

THE SELF-PROFILE

THE BIG QUESTION: this will guide you through your project

1. What's the big question you will write about?
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THE PITCH: The proposal to your teacher (answer this on another sheet)

2. Why is this an important question for you to explore?

3. Why is this an important question for your school community to learn about? How might hearing an answer to these questions improve people's lives?

THE INTERVIEW: You will ask YOURSELF questions. You can write out the answers or audio record yourself as you respond.

4. On a separate sheet of paper, come up with questions to find out how your own experience helps answer the big question. View this Pulitzer Center video on interviewing to guide you:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ip36_qnjYsA

- A. Research and plan questions to conduct your interview (What don't people already know about you?)
- B. Ask open-ended questions

C. Take your time (Give yourself time to answer)

D. Listen for quotes that stand out

Ask yourself questions to help you tell your story or experience about the following:

- What you struggled with related to the big question
- How the conflict began
- The important experiences that made this experience difficult or meaningful for you
- How you changed, what you learned, how your life is different (hopefully in a better way) because of this experience

THE TRANSCRIPTION:

5. You will transcribe your self-interview, summarize sections of it, and identify quotes that capture emotion. Use the PROFILE TRANSCRIPT sheet in this packet.

WRITING: Use this format to help organize the information from your self-interview on the transcript sheet into a 1 to 1 ½ page, double spaced article with a headline and byline with summary and quotes

- A. The conflict in your life related to the big question
- B. How the conflict began
- C. The important experiences that made this experience difficult or meaningful for you
- D. How you changed, what you learned, how your life is different (hopefully in a better way) because of this experience

THE RUBRIC: How you will be graded

CC.11-12.W.2.b Text Types and Purposes: Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

The student selected the most important pieces of information to help the readers learn something they did not already know.

A____ B____ C____ D____ F____

CC.11-12.W.6 Production and Distribution of Writing: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

Can I Ask You Something?

Materials by Ray Salazar, part of the 2022-2023 Pulitzer Center Teacher Fellowship



The student wrote a piece that is complete and formatted similarly to the mentor text with few or no writing errors.

A_____ B_____ C_____ D_____ F_____

THE PROFILE OF SOMEONE ELSE

THE BIG QUESTION: this will guide you through your project

1. What's the big question you decided to explore based on the surveys you did of people's experiences?

THE PITCH: The proposal to your teacher (answer this on another sheet)

2. Why is this an important question for you to explore?

3. Why is this an important question for your school community to learn about? How might hearing an answer to these questions improve people's lives?

THE INTERVIEW: You will ask this person's permission to interview them and audio record the interview for this assignment.

4. On a separate sheet of paper, come up with questions to find out how the person's experience helps answer the big question. View this Pulitzer Center video on interviewing to guide you:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ip36_qnjYsA

- E. Research and plan questions to conduct your interview
- F. Ask open-ended questions
- G. Take your time
- H. Listen for quotes that stand out

Ask questions to help the person tell you stories or experiences about the following:

- What the person struggled with related to the big question
- How the conflict began
- The important experiences that made this experience difficult or meaningful for the person
- How the person changed, what they learned, how their life is different (hopefully in a better way) because of this experience

THE TRANSCRIPTION:

5. You will transcribe the interview, summarize sections of it, and identify quotes that capture emotion. Use the PROFILE TRANSCRIPT sheet.

THE RESEARCH: This will help readers understand how this person’s experience connects to a larger situation

- 6. You will find 1-2 other articles related to the big question from the Pulitzer Center (or from another reputable news source)

THE PROFILE: Use this format to help organize the information from the interview and your research into a 2 page, double spaced article with a headline and byline with summary and quotes

- E. The conflict in the person’s life related to the big question
- F. How the conflict began
- G. The important experiences that made this experience difficult or meaningful for the person
- H. How the person changed, what they learned, how their life is different (hopefully in a better way) because of this experience

THE RUBRIC: How you will be graded

CC.11-12.W.2.b Text Types and Purposes: Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic.

The student selected the most important pieces of information to help the readers learn something they did not already know.

A____ B____ C____ D____ F____

CC.11-12.W.7 Research to Build and Present Knowledge: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

The student found articles related to the big question and the person’s experience that help readers understand why the person’s experience is important in other ways

A____ B____ C____ D____ F____

CC.11-12.W.6 Production and Distribution of Writing: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

The student wrote a piece that is complete and formatted similarly to the mentor text with few or no writing errors.

A____ B____ C____ D____ F____

Profile Transcript

After you record your interview, you need to transcribe the interview: Write out exactly what the person said. You can take out the “umms” and clarify any statements—as long as you do not change the meaning of what the person said.

<p>Step 1: The transcription of the interview should go in this column</p> <p>Step 3: Bold or highlight the quotes that capture the person’s emotion so you can use these in your profile</p>	<p>Step 2: Break up the interview into sections and summarize what the person said in fewer sentences.</p>