

Lead Exposure Interview Template

A few items to discuss:

- What's the point of an interview?
- What makes an interview interesting?
- What ethics are involved in interviewing?
- Truly listening with empathy statements vs. Q&A sessions
- [Terry Gross](#) on interviewing

Golden Rules of Interviewing:

ALWAYS...	NEVER...
...research the person or topic beforehand. Prior knowledge will enable you to connect with them	...expect to learn about the whole topic from the source alone.
...prepare questions. (You can always add more when the conversation starts flowing.)	...wing the interview. If you aren't prepared, you come across as unprofessional.
...ask the person to spell their full name (even if you think you know it) and ask what grade they're in.	...text message an interview. C'mon! Really! When this happens, it's not true journalism.
...ask if you can record for accuracy. It's illegal to record without permission.	...sneak a recording device in. If they refuse to be recorded, get out a pen and paper and take notes the old-fashioned way.
...introduce yourself, explain the purpose of the interview, and take the lead.	...expect your source to do the "heavy lifting." This often leads to boring interviews.
...listen! And ask good follow-up questions, such as "how did that happen?" or "tell me more about that."	...move quickly through your prepared questions as a Q&A session. The point is to get to know the source and connect.
...offer to let the source review the quotes, if they ask to read the story before it's published.	...show the source of the entire story before it's published. They may try to make you change something. It's just not ethical or journalistic.

Empathy Statements & Interviewing Practice

Step 1: Preparing for the interview

Person to be Interviewed:

Role in our school:

Date of the interview:

Write down 3 questions related to lead exposure below. Jot down notes below during the interview:

1.

a. Follow-up question (and notes):

b. Follow-up question (and notes):

c. Follow-up question (and notes):

2.

a. Follow-up question (and notes):

b. Follow-up question (and notes):

c. Follow-up question (and notes):

3.

a. Follow-up question (and notes):

b. Follow-up question (and notes):

c. Follow-up question (and notes):

Step 2: Individual Work:

What quote was the best from your interview? Choose the most powerful statement and avoid clichés.

Evaluate the interview and determine the most important and exciting quote to form a story. (Maybe it's the quote you wrote above?)

Compose a brief story lead (just the start) about something the person told you. Remember, it should be current, factual, and unbiased to be considered journalistic.