

Personal Interview and Research Essay

Purpose:

- To learn how to use personal interviews as research tools.
- To learn how to organize information into a feature article.

Directions:

With a partner, interview a person who somehow represents a local, probably non-profit organization involved in protecting human rights and/or improving the lives of local citizens.

Step One: Pick a partner and an organization.

You may use the organization that one or both of you chose for the Website Analysis, or you can choose another organization that interests you both. The most important thing is that you can find someone from that organization to interview for this paper.

Step Two: Set up the interview.

You'll probably want to have two organizations on hand, in case one of the interviews falls through. Once you pick an organization, email or call names on the website and request 30 minutes of a member's time to interview them about the organization for a college English research project. Also, let the member know that you will be sharing information about their organization to our class, including how to get involved/donate.

Step Three: Prepare the questions.

Have a list of at least seven questions, based on your research, to ask during the interview. Also prepare follow up questions to have on hand.

More Essentials:

A clear topic

You and your partner will want to choose an angle for presenting the interview—it should go a step beyond just “telling the reader about this organization”. We will be reading and watching interviews in class, to get an idea of how to angle the paper.

Content:

The paper should be in paragraph form and can either profile the person you interviewed, the organization, or both. You will need to choose what you put as your focus for the article.

Context:

You will want to make sure you give enough background information to introduce the person and organization.

Using Sources:

While outside sources are not required, you may want to cite the website or do a little research for background information. You can also use Just Mercy as a source, if it relates to your topic.

Choice of formatting.

You must make a creative decision about how you will present the interview to your reader. I suggest you look up interviews online and look at how they are formatted. We will look at some examples in class, too. You should be able to defend your choice.

Proposal/Prewriting Notes:

You will need to have your

Note: each person will write his or her own proposal.

Final Paper Format:

5-7 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, one-inch margins.

Submission:

Even though you will write the paper together, you must each submit a copy of it (Word Document) to an iCollege dropbox on the day that the paper is due. You'll have the same paper but different memos.

**PREWRITING NOTES for Paper Two:
The Feature Article Profile/Interview**

Each person should answer these questions on their own, and turn in their own version of the prewriting notes by midnight on October 11, 2017

1. Who will you be working with?
2. What will be your paper topic? (Profile of person? Organization? Equally both?) Which person or organization will you write about?
3. What do you already know about this organization? (3-5 sentences)
4. What steps have you taken to set up an interview?
5. Have you been able to set one up yet? If so, for when did you schedule it?
6. What questions might you ask the interviewee? (This answer can be the same as your partner's).
7. Do you have any questions/concerns about the assignment/working with your partner?

Rubric and Peer Review for Interview Essay

Development/Language:

- The questions and ideas presented are specific and not general.
- The author finishes thoughts (doesn't leave the reader hanging).
- The contextual section gives a complete introduction to the topic and person.
- Avoids clichés and generalizations.

Excellent Good Adequate Weak Inadequate

Organization:

- Each part of the essay flows logically from the preceding point. Strong beginning and ending.
- Coherence between and within paragraphs is distinctive and further supports the writer's goal to provide clear understanding and engaged reading throughout the essay.
- Proper editing of the interview brings focus and keeps paper moving.

Excellent Good Adequate Weak Inadequate

Incorporating Sources:

- The sources are incorporated with context and assessments (TIQA).
- Source information strengthens the authors' point in a particular paragraph.

Excellent Good Adequate Weak Inadequate

Grammar, Spelling, and Mechanics:

- Minimal errors in spelling, grammar, or mechanics appear so that the reader is never distracted by errors.

Excellent Good Adequate Weak Inadequate