

*6:3a Conducting Interviews**

Asking the questions to get the answers that tell the story

There are three common ways to gather information for a story:

1. Personal observation--the reporter's eyewitness account (athletic contests, speeches, demonstrations)
2. Printed or written materials--press releases, prior news articles, etc.
3. Interviews--fact, personal, or group

*Excerpted from "Conducting Interviews" by Dianne Smith, <http://www.jteacher.com/id22.html>

*6:3b Three Types of Interviews**

Fact Interview

This type of interview is a straightforward question-and-answer conversation intended to get facts and quotations for advance stories or supplementary/follow-up coverage of past events. These are routine interviews and can be conducted over the telephone if necessary.

Personal Interview

A more formal approach, also called the feature interview. The reporter should prepare a list of questions ahead of time, but be prepared to take a different path of questioning if the situation calls for it.

Group Interview

1. **Man-on-the-street or inquiring reporter.** The reporter asks the same question of interviewees selected at random. The answers may be limited to one or two sentences, and are printed just as given, with no comment from the reporter. These might be published in an inquiring reporter type of column along with a small picture of the interviewee.

2. **Symposium interview:** The reporter gathers statements from several people, usually authorities or specialists with similar interests or expertise. The statements are compared, contrasted, analyzed or interpreted, and are used as direct and indirect quotes throughout an article.

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