
Resource 2:6 Feature Story Question Worksheet

Directions: These question types are explained in detail in the first semester course of this series, *Middle School Journalism*, and reviewed in Unit 1 of this course, and can also be found on Resource 1:9, but questioning an interview subject is of such importance that they bear repeating and practice here as well. This worksheet may prove useful when you are preparing a formal interview for your feature story and should be part of your feature story preparation kit. Complete this worksheet after you have completed your background research. This worksheet is only necessary for a PRIMARY SOURCE.

Which of the following types of questions will achieve the purpose of the interview? Check off the types of questions you will use.

Opening Questions: (You should always do these. Put an X in this box and plan what you will comment on.)

Icebreaker (Comment on something on their backpack, their clothing, the weather, or that happened in school today—May

First Moves (Just naturally ask a follow up, like Oh really, how come, or tell me more about that).

Filter Questions (You are checking them out here, do they really know what they are talking about. This is where your RESEARCH helps)

Check their qualifications (Find out about a couple specific things in their area and ask them about it. Think CSI, Investigative reporting)

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

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Special degrees or training (Have they been to any workshops, schools or training?)

Routine Factual Questions *(These questions are the ONLY questions asked in a news story, or for a quick quote perhaps)*

Who: First and Last names (Spelled correctly)

What

When

Where

Why

How *These are the tougher questions to ask, but can also be more enjoyable.*

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Numerically Defining Questions—These questions are all about the numbers.

Statistics, Percentages, Comparisons

Conceptually Defining Questions-- These questions will help you, the reporter and the person you are interviewing try to dig deeper into the motivation of the interviewee

What is the cause or reason?

What is the motivation?

Probes

Tell Me More Method

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

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Creative Questions

Form an explanation or hypothesis and test it
