

Writing and Presenting an Interview Narrative

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My Notes

Assignment

Your assignment is to interview a person who has attended a postsecondary institution (i.e., a two- or four-year college, a training or vocational school, the military) and to write an interview narrative that effectively portrays the voice of the interviewee while revealing how the experience contributed to his or her coming of age.

Planning: Plan and conduct the interview.

- Have you arranged a time and place to meet with your interviewee?
- Are you satisfied with the list of questions you might ask? If not, revise them.
- Have you considered recording the interview? Or will you simply take handwritten notes, or both? Have you asked permission to record the interview?
- How will you set up the interview as a conversation rather than an interrogation?
- What will you do to remind yourself to ask good follow-up questions rather than simply sticking to the questions on your list?
- What question(s) will you ask to get your interviewee to describe in depth at least one specific coming-of-age incident from his or her college experience?
- When you feel that you have adequate information, you can begin to draw the interview to a close. Remember to take good notes and to thank the interviewee.

Prewriting: Prepare to write the interview narrative.

- How will you make time to read over your notes and add to, delete, or refine them as the basis for your interview narrative?
- What quotes or descriptions of the person will you use to give a vivid picture and create an authentic voice?

Drafting: Decide how to structure your interview narrative.

- What will you include in the introduction?
- Have you included information about the person's experiences in general and those related to college in particular?
- Have you used vivid and precise imagery, carefully chosen diction, and a mix of direct and indirect quotations to convey a sense of the interviewee's voice?

Revising and Editing for Publication: Review and revise to make your work the best it can be.

- Have you carefully transformed your questions and answers into a narrative?
- Have you arranged to share your draft with a partner or with your writing group?
- Have you consulted the Scoring Guide and the activities to prepare for revising your draft?
- Did you use your available resources (e.g., spell check, dictionaries, Writer's Checklist) to edit for conventions and prepare your narrative for publication?

Reflection

A successful interview can be a rewarding experience for both the interviewer and the interviewee. What did you learn that you did not expect to learn, and how would you evaluate the experience for both you and your interviewee?

SCORING GUIDE

Scoring Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Incomplete
Ideas	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> insightfully describes one or more college incidents that influenced the interviewee's coming of age uses vivid examples of character description develops an engaging and authentic character and presents that person's unique perspective. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describes one or more incidents from the interviewer's college experience includes examples of character description develops the character and presents the person's perspective. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> begins to describe an incident about the interviewee's college experience includes limited examples of character description develops some aspects of character but does not provide a clear perspective. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not describe an incident from the interviewee's college experience does not contain examples of character description does not develop the character or the person's perspective.
Structure	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follows the structure of the genre with well-sequenced events clearly orients the reader and uses effective transitions for coherence demonstrates a consistent point of view. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follows the structure of the genre with a sequence of events orients the reader and uses transitions for coherence uses a mostly consistent point of view. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follows some structure of the genre somewhat orients the reader with limited coherence uses an inconsistent point of view. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not follow the structure of the genre fails to orient the reader and has no coherence uses confusing points of view.
Use of Language	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> purposefully uses quotations with telling details, and vivid imagery to convey a strong sense of the interviewee's voice smoothly embeds direct and indirect quotations demonstrates strong command of conventions and spelling. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses quotations and telling details to portray the interviewee's voice embeds some direct and/or indirect quotations demonstrates general command of conventions and spelling; minor errors do not interfere with meaning. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses limited quotations to portray the voice of the interviewee contains one or no embedded quotations demonstrates limited command of conventions and spelling; errors begin to interfere with meaning. 	<p>The narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses no quotations to portray the voice of the interviewee contains no embedded quotations contains frequent errors in grammar and conventions that interfere with meaning.