



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR INTERVIEWS

Learn how to conduct great interviews to capture the most interesting stories and characters for documentary films!

In this module, we'll explore tips and tricks for nailing your interviews that let us deeply connect with our subjects.

It's how we make sure our films feel genuine, touch people's hearts, and get them thinking.

Watch this video tutorial to see how it's done
<https://dofilm.co.nz/how-to/interview-tips/>

or... Scan me!



*Print the activity pages at the end of this document and enjoy the rest on screen!

What you'll need:



A classmate to be your partner

A spot perfect for chatting

Notebooks and pens if you want to take notes



INTERVIEWS ARE WHERE ALL THE MAGIC HAPPENS IN DOCUMENTARIES.

They let us really get to know people - their lives, stories, thoughts and feelings. By the end of this activities, you'll be a total pro at helping people feel comfortable to really open up during interviews - the secret to creating documentaries that blow audiences' minds!

PART ONE: PAIR UP & BRAINSTORM (10 MINUTES)

- Find a buddy you vibe with and pair up - you'll take turns interviewing each other
- Spend a few mins coming up with open-ended questions that'll really help you get to know your partner beyond just the basics.
- Don't ask boring stuff, create questions that'll encourage them to share deep thoughts, stories and feelings. Be careful not to ask yes/no questions - open-end questions will get them talking.

Stuck? No worries! Here are some sample questions to get you started

What's the craziest/funniest/most amazing thing that's ever happened to you?
What's something you're really passionate about? What makes you so passionate about it?
Who has had the biggest influence on who you are today?
What's one of your biggest goals or dreams for the future?
What's been one of the biggest challenges or obstacles you've had to overcome?

PART TWO: INTERVIEW TIME! (10 MINUTES)

One of you is the interviewer, the other is the subject. Interviewer, make your buddy feel totally comfortable to really open up and share their story. Listen closely, ask follow-ups about anything interesting, and keep digging with thoughtful questions.

PART THREE: SWITCH ROLES (10 MIN)

Now you flip! The subject becomes the interviewer.

PART FOUR: DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

- How did it feel being the interviewer?
- What was tricky about trying to get your subject to open up?
- As the subject, did you feel at ease sharing personal stories and thoughts?
- What did the interviewer do that made you want to share more or clam up?
- What types of questions got the most fascinating, engaging responses?
- How could you use these interviewing skills for a real documentary project?
- How can you level up your interviewing abilities to better connect with subjects and uncover incredible narratives?

By becoming interviewing pros, we can uncover unique narratives that make audiences go "Whoa, that's amazing!" and bring our films to life.