

## USING PRIMARY SOURCES (INFORMAL INTERVIEWS)

Using primary sources in your writing can be an excellent way to break the monotony of simply reporting information from using secondary sources. Instructors often like to see that students have taken the initiative to explore topics with real experts or real subjects. Interviews are an excellent way to collect information and learn about a topic. Besides, some people learn much better talking and discussing topics with people socially or in a social context.

Additionally, while you cannot ask a book a question, a person who is being interviewed will most likely allow you to ask as many questions as they can possibly stand.

### ADVICE (SAFETY FOR RESEARCHER AND SUBJECT)

- +Interview people who appear safe, punctual, and honest.
- +Be careful not to ask questions which are too personal or which may be considered too challenging to your subject (or person being interviewed).
- +When you interview, always let someone know where you are, who you are with, and when you will return.
- +Check with your instructor to see if the topic and questions are appropriate for the interview.
- +Check with your instructor to see if there are any rules or regulations in place which forbid you from conducting informal research.

### SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

#### *WHO ARE YOU?*

Name:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

#### *INDICATE YOUR FAVORITES (multiple answers acceptable)*

Number:

Letter:

Color:

Animal:

Holiday:

Activities (rest):

Activities (fun/diversion):

City/Town:

Book:

Author/Writer/Poet:

Periodical/Magazine:

Internet Site:

Game:

Song:

Album:

Band/Musician:

Type of Music:

Artists (Painter/Sculptor):

Piece of Art/Painting/Sculpture:

Film/Movie:

Cartoon/Anime:

Television Series:

Actor:

Actress:

Drink:

Main dish:

Side dish:

Breakfast:

Lunch:

Dinner:

Fruit:

Vegetable:

Dessert:

Candy:

Shirt:

Pants:

Shoes:

Coat/Jacket:

Sport:

Vacation Spot:

Hangout Spot:

Hero (real or fictional):

Subject in School:

Form of Exercise:

### USING INTERVIEWS INSIDE OF YOUR PAPER

When you are ready to use the contents of your interviews inside of your paper, you should make sure to include an entry for your interview in your bibliography, reference page, or works cited.

Additionally, you want to make sure to cite the source parenthetically as well. Make sure to observe the appropriate parenthetical form.