

Presidential Election Interview

Mr. Adkisson's Block Class

One of the most valuable sources of information available today is other people. The best way to learn interesting, current information from other people is to sit down and talk to them and listen to what they have to say. This is what newspaper, magazine, and television reporters do every day.

Your assignment is to interview a registered voter. The person you interview should be voting in this year's Presidential election on November 8. You will need to ask the following questions during your interview and write the answers in a report. **The report needs to be written in paragraph form.**

- How old were you the first time you voted?
- Was the first time you voted by mail or at a polling station?
- Who are you voting for President of the United States?
- What are the issues that influenced your decision to vote for President of the United States (i.e., economy, immigration, national security, education, health care)? Do you agree or disagree with your candidate's position on these issues?
- How are you voting in other races besides the Presidential office?
- Are there ballot measures that you are voting for or against on Election Day?

Steps to follow before the interview

- Select a person to interview. He or she must be a registered voter.
- Write out all the questions you would like to ask during your interview.
- Ask thought-provoking questions that require more than a "yes or no" answer.
- Make an appointment (time and place) that is convenient for the person you are going to be interviewing.
- Educate yourself about who is running in this Presidential election. Be aware of current issues, ballot measures, and other political campaigns as much as possible before the interview so that you are not likely to be overwhelmed with new information.
- Practice asking your questions and writing down responses with a

friend or classmate.

Steps to follow during the interview

- Begin the interview by introducing yourself and thanking your subject for speaking with you.
- Ask if it's OK to take notes and/or use a tape recorder to record their answers.
- Ask a good first question - then listen carefully. If you ask good questions, you will end up listening far more than speaking.
- Keep eye contact with your subject as much as possible, even while taking notes; notice the subject's facial expressions and gestures.
- Show that you are actively involved in listening to your subject.
- Don't interrupt your subject unless necessary. Wait until there is a natural pause in the conversation to ask follow up questions.
- Before you finish your interview, review your notes for any additional follow-up questions, points that need clarifying, or spelling of any names.

Steps to follow after your interview

- Thank your subject for the interview and offer to show him or her a copy of your final work.
- As soon as you finish the interview, write down everything you remember that you didn't have time to include while your subject was talking.
- Don't wait too long, or you'll forget the details!
- Later, if you have time, type or write a transcript of the interview. These notes will help you write your report in paragraph form.

Assignment Due Dates

Friday, October 28: Decide whom you will interview. Have a time and place chosen where you will conduct the interview. Write out the questions you will be asking. Worth 10 points

Tuesday, November 1: Rough draft of the assignment due. Worth 10 points

Thursday, November 4: Final draft due. Worth 20 points