

INTERVIEWING LIKE A BROADCAST JOURNALIST

Time: 45-75 minutes

Workshop purpose: In this workshop, youth learn to identify active listening, and learn interview practices such as asking open-ended questions and follow-up questions. They practice using digital audio recorders and get to know other members of the group.

Materials:

- Computer and speakers
- Digital audio recorders and headphones (or ask youth to bring their own smartphones and headphones).
- White board or chart paper and markers.
- Pen and paper for students

PREP

- Gather materials
- Load these links to listen to and print related transcripts if desired:
 - Sigur Ros on NPR's Bryant Park Project:
<https://make.headliner.app/download/8da556ed-d7f3-420f-8b03-21140d8c8419>
 - Clare Martin interviews a stranger at Seattle's Pike Place Market as part of KUOW's RadioActive Youth Media workshop:
<https://make.headliner.app/download/71b62ffe-9b26-4512-8b82-97eefb20a0e2>
- Optional – load this RadioActive stories to listen to
 - <https://www.kuow.org/stories/ilhan-omar-mother-daughter-politics>
 - (More stories are linked in the related Google Slides presentation)

OPENING 5 MIN	
5 min	<p>INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Today you’re going to learn to do an interview like a broadcast journalist. We’ll talk about what kinds of questions you can ask to get interesting answers, and then you’ll practice by interviewing a partner. ● “This workshop comes from RadioActive Youth Media, the teen journalism program at KUOW Public Radio in Seattle.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “At RadioActive, teens get paid to make their own radio stories about the topics that matter to them. We’ll listen to a RadioActive story today, and you can learn more about getting involved with them at kuow.org/radioactive.” ● “Any questions before we dive in?”
WARM UP 5 MIN	
10-15 min	<p>WARM-UP: ASK ONE QUESTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Interviewing is all about asking great questions and listening closely to the answers. So we’ll start by warming up our brains and bodies with a question-asking and answering activity.” ● “Take out a piece of paper and something to write with. We’re going to take one minute to write down a get-to-know-you question. This should be a question you’d be comfortable asking anyone in the room. And it should be legible enough that someone else in the room can read it.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “What’s an example of a ‘get-to-know-you’ question?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [Brainstorm a few questions as a group.] ● “Can I have a volunteer to help me with the next part?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [Invite volunteer to the front of the room]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Once you’ve got your question written down, you’ll move around the room and find a partner. Then you’ll ask your partner your question, and your partner will answer it. Then your partner will ask <i>you</i> their question, and you’ll answer it. ● Then-- here’s the fun part-- you’ll <i>switch questions</i>, and go ask a new partner your new question. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ [Model this with your volunteer.] ● You’ll ask a question to three people. When you’re done, return to your seat. ● Questions? Ready, go! <p>Short debrief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What was that experience like? ● What was your favorite question to answer? ● How did it feel to ask someone a question? To answer a question?
BUILDING INTERVIEWING SKILLS 20 MIN	
10 min	<p>INTERVIEW STARTERS AND STOPPERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “We’re going to listen to two short samples of interviews from public radio shows. As you listen, write down a few ideas on what makes an Interview Starter and what makes an Interview Stopper.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By Starter, I mean a question that gets an interesting, compelling, emotional, detailed answer. ○ By Stopper, I mean a question that gets awkward silence, one-word answers, or uninteresting answers. ● [Listen to Luke Burbank’s interview with Sigur Ros for 2 minutes] ● [Listen to Claire’s Pike Place interview for 1 minute] ● Group discussion: What did you hear that were Interview Starters? Stoppers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chart these answers. ● If these haven’t been brought up, suggest these:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Open-ended questions. That means something that can't be answered just "yes" or "no." Open-ended questions begin with who, what, when, where, why, or how. o Listen and ask follow-up questions that make your partner dig deeper or be more specific.
INTERVIEW PRACTICE 15-25 MIN	
5 min	<p>INTERVIEW PRACTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Divide into pairs or groups of three using your preferred grouping method. ● If recording the interviews, offer a brief tech lesson. ● "Now you're going to try interviewing each other." We'll work in pairs (or groups of 3) and you'll have 5-10 minutes each to interview your partner. We'll all use the same topic: What is a challenge you have faced, and how did you deal with it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o [Brainstorm and chart possible follow-up questions] <p>Instructions for interviewing each other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Challenge yourself to stay on topic the whole time! ● Follow your curiosity and ask follow-up questions that get at emotion, detail, and stories. ● Let youth know how much time they'll have for the interview (5-10 minutes each), and that you'll let them know when to switch. ● Questions?
10-20 min	<p>INTERVIEWING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5-10 minutes per person (depending on the size of your groups, age, and time available) ● Circulate around the room and give suggestions/encouragement ● Let them know when to switch roles.
CLOSING 5 MIN	

5 min	<p>REFLECTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What questions worked well to get interesting answers? ● What was challenging? ● What would you do differently next time you did an interview? ● What other questions do you have about interviewing? ● How is the skill of interviewing useful for people who aren't journalists?
LISTEN TO A RADIOACTIVE STORY (OPTIONAL) 10 MIN	
10 min (if time)	<p>LISTENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Let's listen to a story from RadioActive Youth Media. We have three stories to choose from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How politics brought my mom and me closer ○ How one transgender dancer challenges the Bollywood binary ○ A poem for my mother, a Vietnam boat refugee <p>[Scroll down to the bottom of each web post to find a video with closed captioning]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This story was produced by a Seattle teenager. They did all of the interviewing, recording, writing and audio editing themselves! ● As you listen, think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What parts of the story caught your attention and made you want to keep listening? ○ When do you get bored or tune out? ○ What questions do you have about how this story was made? ○ What do you think the reporter had to consider when interviewing? ○ What challenges do you think the reporter faced when interviewing for this story? ● Listen and discuss.

