

Creating Interview Questions

An **interview** is a conversation between individuals to gain information and different perspectives on an issue through the form of question and answer.

Interview questions are the backbone of an interview, and the types of questions you ask will have an impact on how much information and the type of information the interviewee is going to give you.



Credit: UCI Libraries

A good interview question:

- Is **brief** and **to the point**,
- Is **open-ended** and encourages more than a “yes” or “no” answer,
- Allows for **follow-up** questions (outside of your five main questions),
- Goes beyond the surface to dig deeper for more information,
- Is respectful and does not pry for inappropriate details.

IMPORTANT:
Ask follow-up
questions.
Be engaged!

Base your interview questions off of these factors:

1. The purpose of the interview
2. The background of the interviewee. Who are they? How do you know them? Why are you interviewing them? What questions will they be able to answer?
3. Social, economic, ideological, environmental, political, or cultural categories. Cast a wide net while keeping questions specific to your project.

Create Your Own Questions Practice Sheet

What is my topic?

Who am I interviewing? How do I know them? Why am I interviewing them?

Create five interview questions keeping in mind they are: concise, open-ended, able to be followed up, beyond the surface, and appropriate.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____