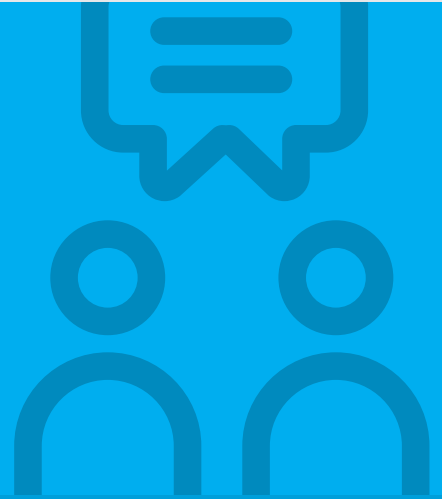




Adolescents conduct an interview with someone in their community and write a short report or story.



4/5



3/5



3/5



1-2 hours



Activity Overview

Purpose

Interview adults in the community.

Objectives

Adolescents will be able to:

- ▶ Communicate and express ideas through writing.
- ▶ Listen and communicate to others.

Competency domains

Empathy and respect.

Works well for

Adolescents who can move safely outside the activity space, and who feel comfortable interacting with new people in their community; Adolescents who have learned and practiced skills related to interviewing, active listening and understanding different perspectives.

Phase

Connecting.

Before

Practicing interviewing skills.

After

Adolescents can follow-up by writing about the people they meet, or creating drawings or paintings to describe them.

Preparation

The facilitator should assess whether it is safe for adolescents to move outside of their activity space and to interact with new people.



1

Facilitator says:

"Today you are going to practice interviewing skills by conducting a short interview with someone you don't know well. This is an experiment and a challenge. You may learn something interesting or important from a new person, or you may just have a short conversation."

2

Explain:

Participants will prepare a few short interview questions: Tell them to try to think of interview questions that will encourage someone to share a story or idea that is important to them, but don't ask anything too personal or difficult. Share some examples:

- ▶ Who is the most important person in your life right now?
- ▶ What is the most important lesson you ever learned?
- ▶ What makes you happy?

3

Ask the adolescents to prepare what they will say before and after the interview and give them the following tips:

- ▶ Introduce yourself and explain that you are doing a project.
- ▶ Ask permission to conduct an interview, and respect their decision if they refuse.
- ▶ Answer any questions they may have.
- ▶ Go ahead with your interview questions when they are ready.
- ▶ Take notes while you are listening.
- ▶ Use active listening techniques to pay attention and show your interest.
- ▶ Thank them when the interview is finished. If you enjoyed your interview or learned something important, say so.

4

- ▶ Ask the person for permission to use their name and to share what you have learned from them with others in a creative writing piece or an artwork. If they say no, respect their decision.
- ▶ Give the person you interviewed another chance to ask questions.
- ▶ Thank them again for their time.

5

When the adolescents are ready, they should leave the activity space to look for adults or other young people to interview, staying in pairs. Go with them and support them. Be available to explain the purpose of the activity to others if necessary.

6

When adolescents have completed their interviews they should return to the activity space. They can write a short report or story about the answers to their interview questions, using their interviewees' words.

7

Sharing and Take Away:

Discuss:

- ▶ How did it feel to interview strangers? What was enjoyable about your experience? What was difficult?
- ▶ How did people react when you asked to interview them? Do you think they enjoyed being interviewed? Why or why not?
- ▶ Did you learn anything new about the people in this community? Did this change the way you feel about the community?



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Do & Don't

- ✓ Check adolescents' interview questions and make sure they are appropriate - Suggest questions if they have trouble thinking of good ones.
- ✓ Listen and observe adolescents when they are rehearsing in pairs - Make sure they are ready to conduct interviews with new people before they leave the activity space.
- ✓ Actively support adolescents when they conduct their interviews.
- Let adolescents discuss both their positive and negative experiences with interviewing
- ✗ Push adolescents to conduct interviews if they don't feel ready or safe interacting with new people outside their activity space.
- ✗ Intervene in interviews unless the adolescents need support.

Adaptation

Adolescents can prepare for their interviews during a session, then conduct their interviews at a different time.

Environment

○ Indoor or outdoor space to prepare for the interviews, then move outside and find people to interview.

Supplies

- ▶ Writing paper or a notebook.
- ▶ Pen or pencil for each adolescent.

Improvise

Adolescents can describe their interviews in different ways. They can:

- ▶ Photograph the people they interview (if digital cameras are available);
- ▶ Draw or paint portraits of the people they interview;
- ▶ Create storyboards about the interviews.

Adolescents can focus their interviews on a challenge or an opportunity that people in the community face. Use these interviews as a first step toward designing new ways to address that problem or opportunity, using problem statements, brainstorming, prototyping and other innovation-related activities.

Continue

- ▶ Adolescents can create an exhibition about the people they have interviewed and what they learned from them. If they have focused their interviews around one issue, this can be the theme of the exhibition.
- ▶ Adolescents can organize a community dialogue based on the theme of their interviews (and exhibition). See the **Community dialogue** activity.



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