



## Conducting an Interview - News Consumption

### Overview

Journalists often interview members of the public to get a feel for the range of opinions on the issues. In this activity, your students will interview people they know about their news consumption habits. Once all students have completed their interviews, they will share their findings with the whole class and look for patterns. Finally, students will discuss the question: *What should we do as a society to improve our understanding of current events?*

### Teacher Directions

1. First, as a class, read this week's Current Event on Journalism in Oregon overview and vocabulary.
2. Instruct the class that they will all be news reporters this week and will each interview an adult on their news consumption. Let them know that all the 'reporters' will gather in the 'newsroom' to share their findings and look for patterns in the habits of their interviewees.
3. Preparation: put students in groups of four to brainstorm what would be good questions to ask and have them record their questions, putting a star ★ next to their favorite three. Make sure at least two are open-ended questions.
4. Have each group report out on their 3 favorite questions as you compile them, creating an interview question bank for the class. Use this bank and your best judgment to create a standard interview form for all of them to use. There is an example attached.
5. Have students think about which trusted adult they want to interview. Coach them on important interview behavior including:
  - Setting up the interview time and place
  - Being prompt
  - Greeting and explaining the purpose of the interview
  - Listening and taking notes (doing both at the same time isn't easy)
  - Asking questions to clarify or follow up on what you heard
  - Thanking the interviewee
6. Invite students to share what they learned. You may want to record this in a common space so they can see patterns in the answers.
7. Encourage students to discuss recommendations for the future as you consider: *What should we do as a society to improve our understanding of current events?*
8. Consider writing up these recommendations as a letter to the editor of your local newspaper (if you have one!).



## News Consumption - Student Interview Notes

**Directions:** As you interview, record what you hear as you listen. You will not have time to write every single word. Just the most important phrases.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your preferred method of getting news and why? (newspaper, online newspaper, tv, radio, other)
2. How often do you 'catch up' on the news?
3. What makes you prefer certain news sources over others?
4. Do you use a different source for local news than national news? If so, which?
5. Do you prefer articles or opinion pieces, or a mix of both?
6. When you are in the car, do you listen to music or news?
7. Have you ever listened to a news podcast? If so, what did you like/dislike about that?
8. Why do you think many people avoid the news?
9. What suggestions do you have to improve the public's understanding of current events?