



From: Nellie Bly and Investigative Journalism for Kids
Published by Chicago Review Press, 2015

Conduct an Interview

Nellie Bly wasn't a trained journalist. But she excelled at reporting because she knew how to interview people and ask good questions. Journalists need to be skilled at conducting interviews by asking questions and recording what is said. It takes practice and patience. For this activity, try your hand at interviewing.

Approximate age range: fifth to eighth grade

Objective: To help young people learn how to interview another individual and record information.

You'll Need:

- * Pencil or pen
- * Paper or Reporter's Notebook
- * Computer (optional)

1. Choose someone to interview such as a teacher, parent, grandparent, or coach, and ask them if they would be willing to be interviewed. If your interviewee agrees, set up a specific time and place to meet with the person face to face.
2. Do your research. At the library or on a computer, find out as much about the person ahead of time as possible. You can sometimes research information by talking with others.
3. Write down a list of about three to five questions.
4. Meet with the person and ask questions from your list. It's okay to ask your interviewee to speak slowly. When your interviewee answers a question, take careful notes and write down exactly what he or she says.
5. After the interview is over, thank your interviewee for participating.
6. On a new sheet of paper, write out every question you asked followed by the interviewee's answers. Write your initials in caps before every question you asked, followed by the interviewee's initials in caps before each answer.
7. Share your interview with your interviewee and talk about it. How did it go? What did you learn? What did you like or not like about interviewing someone?