

Lecture 2

The Different Types of Interview

You don't have to remember these interview types by heart. I just want you to be aware of them. Knowing this information will help you approach your interview better.

The Informative Interview

Your guest must be knowledgeable about their subject for this kind of interview to work. Think about this as the expertise interview. You're interviewing someone that has specialist information that your average person doesn't understand. Your questions in this type of interview should be focused and structured from a-z. We want to get the information from the expert in a way that the average person can understand.

The Character Interview

You interview a celebrity, a musician or a local person simply to get to know them better. For this type of interview, we're only looking at who they are and what they do. Our job for this interview is to bring out their personality so that our listeners/viewers/readers can learn more about them. Think about this as the friendship interview. In general, it's light-hearted questions with no secret revelations, etc.

The Reaction Interview

You're asking someone about his or her response to something that has just taken place. "A sex offender has just moved into your neighbourhood, how do you feel?" Questions here will tend to be more about gaining the emotion from your interviewee.

The Holding Someone to Account Interview

Why someone did something and why did they do it that way? You will be countering their statements, their facts, their views, etc. with your research. This type of interview tends to be involved with news stories i.e. holding politicians to account. You can also find this kind of interview in-studio debates and phone-ins.

The Vox Pop

Here you interview the general public on a particular topic to get their views on the subject in question.

Example: "What do you think about the city's idea to allow traffic onto the walking street?"

The Eye Witness Interview

Interviewing someone who has witnessed an event to get the information from them. Depending on the event witnessed you must take care with this type of interview.

The Serious Interview

Interviewing someone after a tragedy. Such as a ship sinking or a plane crashing etc. You can also use this type of interview to gain someone's emotions on a subject. Again depending on the event, you must take care with this kind of interview.