

**The Set Up:** Primary sources contribute to virtually all forms of research. The credibility of people who are experts in a field or who have witnessed an event is often assumed with a positive connotation. What experts could you ask about something that has your curiosity?

**The Assignment:** In this assignment, you will conduct at least two primary source interviews (primary sources are people - experts) to gain perspective on a research question or to get answers about a curiosity you have. **The GOAL:** You will conduct interviews and write up your findings in essay form using direct and paraphrased quotations giving credit to the sources, incorporating effective transitions, while maintaining a clear thesis. You will write an effective, focused introduction, body paragraphs incorporating the sources (no other outside research is necessary), and you will end with an effective conclusion. The assignment is a MINI-Research paper with an interpretive claim.

**Interviewing:** At least ONE of the interviews MUST be in person NOT BY EMAIL– you'll get verification on **the interview confirmation document** provided to you. The other interview can be by email or over the telephone. (Both interviews may be in person and will be more effective since you have the opportunity to ask follow-up questions.) You will ask both sources the same five or six initial questions. (You're a gatherer of information – like a reporter.) As you listen to the responses, you should develop follow-up questions to ask right away. Get clarity, ask for more details, have them give an example, ask them why they feel a certain way, etc. Listen, and allow your mind to question the source further. What else do you want to know? The follow-up questions can vary from source to source depending on what answers the individuals give to the primary questions. You will take detailed notes and write direct quotes from the subjects you interview. (Yes, you may record the interview only with the source's verbal permission. Do not rely on your electronic device, though. Electronic devices fail. TAKE NOTES, too.) **Ethos:** Make sure to obtain the source's title, company name, and how many years the source has had expert knowledge of the subject. (Get information to establish source credibility – ethos.)

**HINT. HINT.** If you are strategic, you might choose two individuals who are experts in the area of your ethnographic research study. Then you might potentially use the information gathered for both assignments. If you have an outside curiosity, you can certainly write about a separate topic using sources not related to your research. (No, you may not interview the same two individuals as anyone else or of other members of any research group.)

**The interview essay should:**

- establish a purpose for interviewing the sources (context) – matters to YOU personally in a focused introduction
- contain a clear and interesting thesis supported by specific, concrete details (direct and paraphrased quotations)
- address the ethical dimensions of the interview (ethos – credibility)
- synthesize the viewpoints of the two sources, noting viewpoints may differ
- use effective transitions between ideas or to connect ideas
- avoid errors in logic, organization, and/or conventions that distract the reader from your main message

**MORE on the BACK →→→→**

## **NUTS and BOLTS:**

APA Format with TITLE page 12 pt. **Times New Roman 1” margins** w/ appropriate Running head, and title above your text

APA References page – only include if you use other outside sources – remember, personal communication does not go on the APA References page – no other outside print or web sources are required.

Turn in CONFIRMATION PAGE for in-person interview - **Grade of 25 IDA points**

3-4 pages typed – Due 3/10/17

**Type in Bearworks IN YOUR FOLDER INSIDE our CLASS FOLDER**

Be prepared for Peer Review on assigned date

Graded using the assignment specific rubric provided by the instructor

## **Incorporating quotes into your papers**

- Decide which quotes are most powerful and use those as direct quotes.
- Paraphrase general information, lengthy responses or use just parts of the responses with ellipses to highlight important pieces of information from your sources.
- **DO NOT** refer to the sources as MR., MS., or MRS. Just use the source’s first and last name. Then, use the source’s last name after the first reference.
- Make sure to punctuate and cite your quotes correctly as personal communication. (Check an APA style guide or OWL at Purdue.)

++ Essentially, you’re incorporating your own prior knowledge, assumptions and curiosities with what your sources tell you to help you draw some conclusions about your initial question ++

++ Yes, this is a mini-research essay using only primary sources – people – as your facts ++

## **Example:**

My curiosity is about the ACT test and how to improve my score.

**Question:** How beneficial are instructor-led, live, ACT/SAT test preparation sessions (individual or group) for high school test takers?

**Context:** I’m a high school student. I’m trying to better my score on last October’s ACT administration.

**Primary Sources:** Paula Purves, certified test preparation teacher. Kim Germano, JHS Learning Center administrator. Do I need a student, too? Hmmm ... maybe I need three primary sources?

**Initial OPEN-ENDED Questions: (can’t answer yes or no)**

1. What is your title, and how long have you been involved with ACT/SAT tutoring?
2. What attributes make an effective one-on-one testing tutor?
3. What kind of participation do you need out of the student(s) who want better scores?
4. Why is it important for a student to work with a test-prep tutor like you instead of just working out of a book?
5. What successes have some of your students had taking the test or improving a score?
6. Some colleges are going away from using ACT/SAT as measures for admission. What is your personal opinion about using ACT/SAT scores as a significant measure for college admission?
7. How much time does it take for students to complete testing preparation with you?
8. How much do you charge for private or group sessions?

## Confirmation of in-person interview

College Composition II Stark State College

Students in Ms. Koladin's class at Jackson High School College Credit Plus English

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ personally  
(Interviewer's name)

appeared before me on \_\_\_\_\_, 2017,

to conduct an interview with me about his or her research question.

**INTERVIEW SOURCE - Please check all that apply after the interview: (Thank you for your feedback and help.)**

- ☐ introduced him or herself
- ☐ explained his or her research question / project
- ☐ was prepared with at least five written questions
- ☐ asked me follow-up questions that were not scripted or written down
- ☐ asked my permission if recording interview electronically –or – Not Applicable
- ☐ took notes on paper of my responses or typed them on a tablet or laptop
- ☐ made eye contact with me / smiled / was friendly
- ☐ thanked me for my responses and for my participation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Source's First and Last Name – Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Source's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Source's contact email

- or -

\_\_\_\_\_  
Source's Contact Telephone Number

If you have any questions, concerns or compliments about this interview of you by the student, please contact me directly at 330-837-3501 x 1186.

Jennifer Koladin