

Choosing a person to interview for the D.I.

When choosing a person to interview, keep in mind the purpose of the interview:

- to gain insight into your future discourse community
- to explore the types of work and opportunities available in your chosen profession

The person you choose must be:

- **a professional in your field** (preferably working in a job you hope to do in the future)
- **someone at a senior level** (minimum three years experience in the field, to be able to give you a broad view of the field, work and opportunities)
- someone who you can interview in person (at least the first interview should be in person)
- someone willing to share information about their background, career path and knowledge in the field particularly on the communication skills required for the field. (This should not be a problem since most people do like to talk.)

(The first two are requirements; the second two make for good interviews)

Do not interview your professor unless you plan to become a professor. *(In some cases, you may have a professor who has worked or is still working in the field. In such cases, you can interview the person, but only about work in the field. If your professor has not been in the field for a long time, it will be better to find someone who will have current, working knowledge of the field.)*

Finding a person:

Talk to your professor (in your major) for suggestions (your best source, they often have strong contacts in the industry)

Talk to family members

Talk to peers, seniors who have started working (their boss could be a good candidate)

Talk to members of a fraternity or association you belong to

Talk to friends, neighbors (a student of mine found someone by talking to her hairdresser, another client of the hairdresser)

Discipline Investigation Outline

Introduction –

- * overview of the *field* being investigated (what) and the *writer's connection* to this discourse community (why)
- * brief preface to *who* was interviewed for the assignment (“name” and specific job title)
- * brief map of the organization of the paper to follow (*preview statement*)

Interview Report

Background and Career Path -- How the informant began his/her “journey” in the career:

- * Initial interest and requirements and skills needed (“stepping stones” - education, training, etc.)
- * Any additional reference to enhance this discussion of the field

Roles and Responsibilities -- the informant’s detailed job description

- * Overall qualifications and responsibilities + how the position fits in the overall structure of the company (macro-level)
- * Smaller day-to-day tasks and skills involved (micro-level)
- * Challenges of the job and how the informant deals with them
- * Other types of jobs/positions related to the profession
- * Any additional reference to enhance this discussion of the field

Communication Skills

- * The types of reading and writing mostly done on-the-job
- * The typical audience for written communications
- * The most important communication aspects of the job (especially in regards to writing)
- * Any additional reference to enhance this discussion of the field

Conclusions

- * A reflection of what was learned through this D.I. – new insight(s) the writer gained, and any “surprises” that differed from or added to the initial expectations of the field
- * A discussion of what the writer believes is still needed in his or her preparation and development for the profession

Works Cited – list of outside sources used

- * full citations of sources included under “Works Cited” at the end of the report – no separate page needed

** A minimum of 2 sources to supplement information about the career/discipline must be integrated into the report – these references may occur in any section(s) of the body of the paper. Sources cited in-text should follow a consistent citation style.