



HEARD! Lesson Five Interview Skills

Time: 45 Minutes

Overview:

Students will listen to an example podcast and engage in a critical discussion about the elements of an interview. Students will practice interviewing classmates using question prompt worksheet and share what they learned about their classmates through the interview process.

Essential Questions:

What are some of the reasons that we want to interview people? How do we use interviews to tell engaging stories?

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- actively Listen to a podcast interview
- analyze elements of an interview
- interview a classmate
- share interview results
- analyze interview finding and describe patterns, similarities, etc.

HEARD! Glossary -

Podcast: A digital audio file made available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or mobile device.

Dialogue: A conversation between two or more people.

Interview: a meeting or conversation in which a writer or reporter asks questions of one or more persons.

Materials for Instructor:

Link to example podcast interview

Speakers

Interview questions prompt [worksheet](#)

Materials for Student:

- HEARD! Journals`
- Pen or pencil

I. Opening Discussion (8 Min.)

Ask the class if anyone has listened to a podcast. Ask students to describe a podcast. Share with students the history of podcasts:

Podcasts have been around since about 2000. They are broadcast over the internet or the radio. Like radio shows, the content of podcasts can be about anything. Users have to create an audio or video content. This can involve recording audio and editing videos, for example. Audio podcasts can be monologues, dialogues or interviews. Today we are going to listen to a podcast and focus on the interview format. At the end of this project, this class is going to create their own podcast interview.

II. Listen to Podcast (7 Min.)

[Add link for 2 podcasts to choose from](#)

III. Critical Discussion (7 min.)

Give the class time to reflect on what they heard. Did the conversation seem natural? Is there anything you noticed about the way the interviewer asked the questions? The interviewee is the subject. Was the subject able to get their story across?

Here are a few points to consider about good interview questions

1. Simple, open-ended questions.
2. One question at a time.
3. No statements. (Lots of inexperienced interviewers want to show how much they know. It's not about the interviewer.
4. Ask follow up questions to get more details. "Why"? "And then what happened?"

IV. Active Learning: Let's practice conducting interviews (10 Min.)

- Have students pair up, or pair them yourself
- Ask pairs to choose who will be the interviewer and who will be the subject
- Hand out question prompt worksheets to "interviewers"
- Remind students that interviewer and subject will both need to remember and use their active listening skills from the previous lesson

Tell students they will have about 8 minutes. It's OK if they don't get to all of the questions. The important part is to learn something new about their interview subject. Encourage students to ask their own follow up questions to the prompts on the worksheet.

- Interviewers take notes directly on the worksheet
- Tell the students to begin the interview
- Give a 1 minute warning and tell students to wrap up their interviews

V. Reflection and Share Out (10 Mins.)

- Ask the interviewers how they felt. Call on 2 or 3 responses
- Ask the subjects how it felt to be interviewed. Call on 2 or 3 responses
- Ask interviewers to look back at their notes and share something new they learned about their classmate, the interview subject
- Ask the whole class if they heard any similarities. Anything surprising?

VI. Closing (3 Mins.)

Begin the closing discussion by circling back and asking the students:

- What are some of the reasons that we want to interview people?
- Who are some of the people in your life that you would like to interview?
- If you could interview anyone in the world who would it be?

Let students know they will keep working to build their interview skills as you continue through this project and work towards creating your own class podcast.