

Oral History:

**Preparing an Oral
History Interview**

Have your say

What did students say last year?

- Last year 90% of students at Sheridan reported they felt a sense of belonging to our community.
- 60% of Sheridan students felt they had adequate interaction with other students outside classes.

What are we doing with your feedback?

- Sheridan is working to help students have more time to interact with each other outside classes. We have new activities and workshops planned.

Check your inbox for the SES – open 6 September to 9 October.

Help shape Sheridan for future students.

Prize draw winners will be announced— have



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Student Experience Survey

The SOUL of Interview Questions

- **Simple** – one-point questions (but feel free to have a follow-up question)
- **Open** – what, when, where, why, how
- **Unknown** – Ask genuine questions, what you don't already know the answer to
- **Listen. Listen. Listen.**

Background Information Activity

Brainstorm what information you already know about your interviewee?

Where else might you be able to find additional background information about this person?

[Image by huyennguyen on Unsplash]



Interview Questions

- Open ended and closed questions
- Neutral and leading questions
- Follow up questions
- Establishing questions
- Asking sensitive questions
- Introducing new topics

[Photo by [Metin Ozer](#) on [Unsplash](#).]



Three Part Structure

- Orientation questions
- Common questions (that you might ask other interviewees as well)
- Specific questions

[Photo by [Priscilla Du Preez](#) on [Unsplash](#)]



Activity

Look at the questions you have already prepared.

Which questions would fit into each of the three sections: orientation, general, specific.

[Photo by [Tatiana Zanon](#) on [Unsplash](#).]



Putting Interviewees at Ease

Discussion Question: How might you put your interviewee (and yourself) at ease?

(see p. 64 of *Oral History Handbook* if you need ideas)

Listening well

How do we listen well during an oral history interview?

(see p. 69 of *Oral History Handbook* if you need reminding)



[Photo by [Mimi Thian](#) on [Unsplash](#)]

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Tutorial Questions

Coming Up: Week 6

- **Homework:**
- submit journal entry by Sunday night, which includes adding to and revising your interview questions

Coming Up:

- Readings
- Ritchie pp. 51–62
- Robertson, pp. 73–84