

Developing Interview Questions

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Your interview questions are an essential piece of your role as a journalist. When you walk into an interview, you should have at least 10 well-developed questions ready to ask your source. Developing your questions can sometimes be difficult, though. Here are some tips for developing interview questions.

1. Start with your goal — why are you interviewing the source?
2. Research your interviewee. You should know their background before you enter the interview! This makes your questions more detail-oriented and you seem more invested to your interviewee.
3. Develop open-ended questions that allow for more complex answers. If your questions are all 'yes' or 'no,' you won't have much to quote in your article.
4. Time your questions effectively and strategically. Start with the "easier" and softer questions before hitting harder topics. Your questions should build to the big ones.
5. End your interview with a question that asks your source if they have anything else to share, such as "Do you have anything else to add?"

If you ever need help developing your interview questions, your editor, the Editor-in-Chief or an advisor are happy to help you! It never hurts to ask for advice.