

Interview Dos and Don'ts

Kylie Irvine, Spring 2023

Do...

- Dress the part.
 - Make sure you're wearing professional attire to your interview; refrain from wearing athletic wear, loungewear, etc.
- Come prepared.
 - Do your research prior to the interview. You should know who you are interviewing, why you are interviewing and how you are going to interview them.
- Listen to your interviewee.
 - Make sure you are listening intently to who you are interviewing in case there are opportunities for follow-up questions.
- Record your interview.
 - Tennessee is a one-party consent state, but it is always a good idea to ask that your interview be recorded. This can help you remain accurate as you write your article later.

Don't...

- Wing it.
 - Trying to go with the flow won't go well. Make sure you've done your research and how well-developed questions BEFORE you enter the interview.
- Assume you can email your source directly.
 - Some interviewees need to be communicated with through specific channels. Be sure to check with your editor if you're unsure if your source has a media relations team.
- Ghost your sources.
 - Staying in contact with your sources after your article's publication can help build a network of trusted sources. Once your article has been published, send it to them so that they have access to it.