

# INTERVIEW

## How to conduct a good interview



When conducting interview for a movie, you might need to do it with a colleague so one will interview the person and the other will use the camera to shoot the interview, to succeed as a team you should be aware of the following:



### **Interviewing is a two-way street**

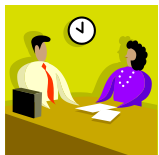
Conducting a good interview depends, in part, on asking the right questions. But it is also important to establish a relationship with the person you are interviewing. Sometimes it is appropriate to share some information about yourself in an interview. Remember that it's a conversation.

What's more, for it to be an honest conversation, people must feel that you care about what they say, and will honor and respect their words and stories.

### **A good interview depends on more than just a list of questions.**

#### **Make your approach polite and respectful**

Explain what you're doing. Be confident. Assume your subject (person) will want to talk to you. The way people respond depends on how you approach them. The trick is to make people realize that your project is both fun and important. Also



let people know that everything can – and will – be edited.

#### **Make the interview situation comfortable before you start**

Move chairs around, get close so you don't have to reach. For example: Sit at the corner of a table, not across if you want to appear in the scene.



### **Put people at ease**

Talk about the weather. Joke about the camera. It's a good idea to begin shooting a few minutes before you actually start the interview. That helps you avoid the uncomfortably dramatic moment: "Okay, now we will begin recording." Just chat about anything while you begin preparing the camera. Before they realize it, you've started the interview.



#### **Maintain eye contact**

Look to people while talking to them, that would help them forget the camera. Talk to people just as you would normally.



#### **Relax and forget about the camera**

One thing that's always amazing: In the beginning of an interview people are usually stiff and self-conscious, but after a while, they forget all about the camera and start to be themselves.



## Watch the sound quality

### Conduct interviews in the quietest place possible

Be careful of TVs, stereos, traffic noise, wind, anything that will be distracting from the interview. Even refrigerators can make an annoying sound that you might not notice until you get home and listen to the tape.



### Keep the camera/ microphone close



You might use a camera with a built in microphone, in this case you should put the camera close to the person to have a better voice quality, if you have an external microphone connected to the camera then you will need to put the microphone close to the speaker's mouth (5-6 inches). If you want to record your questions too, you'll have to move the microphone back and forth.

### Watch out for uh-huhs

During the interview be aware of natural conversational responses like uh-huhs or laughter. Try to use quiet responses: a concerned nod, questioning eyes, the silent laugh.



### Don't be afraid of pauses and silences



Resist the temptation to jump in. Let the person think. Often the best comments come after a short, uncomfortable silence when the person you are interviewing feels the need to fill the void and add something better. If the person kept silence for a long time, ask the question again.

### Get people to 'do' things

In addition to the sit-down interview, have people show you around; shoot a tour of their house, their photo album or their car engine. It's more fun to get people moving around and talking about what they're doing, rather than just sitting in a chair. It helps to relax people before and during an interview.



### Take notes

Remember specific details. Take notes immediately after the interview, while it's still fresh in your mind. You can also use the camera like a dictating machine.



### The last secret to a great interview

There is one simple rule for getting people to talk openly and Honestly: You have to be genuinely curious about the world around you.

