



# JOURNALSIM & FILMMAKING WORKBOOK

## PREPPING FOR INTERVIEWS

WEEK 5  
CHAPTER 5  
GRADES 6-8

**LENGTH: 60-90 MIN.**

### OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Prepare for filming interviews
- Identify possible interview subjects
- Organize interview content chronologically
- Write thoughtful, open-ended questions
- Practice interview design and submit outreach emails.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- MY HERO Journalism & Filmmaking Workbook (pages 49-61)
- Student notebooks or paper (for journaling and answering guided questions)
- Writing utensils
- **Accompanying Slide Deck**

### ADD'L RESOURCES & LINKS

- [Tips and Tricks For Interviewing](#)
- [Great Questions](#)

### OVERVIEW

- Who Will You Interview?
- Activity One: Identifying Interview Subjects
- Activity Two: Beginning-Middle-End
- Activity Three: Interview Questions

### OPENING DISCUSSION

Workbook pg. 49

#### Who will you interview?

One obvious answer may be your hero. But perhaps that person is deceased or too famous or busy for an interview. Whether your hero is available for an interview or not, you will want to try to film people talking about how they have been affected by your hero's actions, as a way of adding characters and perspectives to your film and showing why someone is a hero

### ACTIVITY ONE: IDENTIFYING INTERVIEW SUBJECTS - Step One

Workbook pg. 51-52

#### 01. Think

- Identify three people you could interview for your film and write them down in your workbook on page 52
- View a sample planning chart for a film about Greta Thunberg on page 51

#### 02. Pair

Share your people within your crew and create a list of 5 possible interviewees

#### 03. Share

Share your list with your class for feedback



## ACTIVITY ONE: REQUESTING AN INTERVIEW - Step Two

Workbook pg. 51-52

*As soon as you have completed your planning chart, reach out to your interview subjects to schedule an interview.*

*See Workbook pages 53-54 for tips on contacting your subject and an email template.*

## ACTIVITY TWO: BEGINNING-MIDDLE-END

Workbook pg. 54-55

Preparing ahead of time is key to a good interview. When you finally sit down with your interviewees, you will want to be armed with strong background knowledge and a deep list of well-crafted questions.

### **Divide Your Hero's Life into 3 sections:**

*Beginning, Middle, End (Future)*

*Write **five** questions for each section on a separate piece of paper*

### **Some Examples of Questions:**

**Beginning:** *Where were you born?*

**Middle:** *Where did you go to college?*

**End:** *What is a goal you want to accomplish in the next 5 years?*

## ACTIVITY THREE: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Meet with your crew and fill out pages 58-61 together, feel free to use some of your questions from Activity Two

### **\*HERO PRO TIP\***

- *Start with easier questions to build rapport, like asking their name/title/passion/etc*
- *Ask open-ended questions— questions without a simple yes or no answer*
- *Ask critical questions that address some of the most important aspects of the hero(es) and how their actions impact the people around them*
- *Ask good follow-up questions. Do not rush to the next question on your list. Ask them to share more, tell the entire story of a certain moment they experienced.*

## HOMework

- *Using pages 53-54, draft and send emails to your interview subjects*
- *Finish writing interview questions*