



SO YOU WANT TO BE A REPORTER?



An Everyday Boston (At-Home) Activity Guide For Kids



Let's Get Started!

What's an interview?

It's really just a conversation with one big goal: To help you understand what life is like for someone else.

You've got this! You're smart and focused and awesome!

So the basics of interviewing are LISTENING and BEING CURIOUS/ASKING QUESTIONS. Here's how it goes:

1. Ask first question

2. Listen

3. Ask a question based on what you heard

4. Listen

5. Ask a question based on what you heard

6. Listen

7. Ask a question based on what you heard

8. Listen

9. "Thank you for sharing for your story!"



Good Listening

Listening is a gift you give to other people. When you listen, you're sending a message: "You're important. I care about what you have to say." All great reporters know how to listen.

How can you tell someone is listening to you? What do they do or say?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How do you feel when you know someone is listening to you?

How can you tell when someone ISN'T listening to you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How do you feel when you think the other person isn't listening?



Calling all Everyday Boston reporters!

Okay, reporters! Here's your first assignment: Pick someone in your home and interview them about their life experiences.

We want stories from their life, not just one fact after another fact after another fact.

If you ask "What's your favorite color" or "Where did you grow up?" or "What was the name of your first friend?" you'll just get facts.

BORING! To really get to know someone, you need stories.

And to get stories, reporters ask about someone's life experiences. So think about it: What kind of life experience would you like to hear about?

- Would you like to know about a big risk your parent took?
- Or an adventure your grandmother went on?
- Or a time your brother felt alone?
- Or a time your aunt stood up for herself?



My Questions

You can ask about any life experience you want, but it has to be an experience that EVERYONE has had. Like a first day of school. Or a time they tried something new.

Let's start our questions with "Tell me about a time when..." or "Tell me about..." because that helps people to get in the mood to tell you a story.

Tell me about a time when

Tell me about a time when

Tell me about a time when

Don't Forget to Ask Follow-Up Questions!

Once you ask your first question, and someone starts telling their story, that's just the beginning.

Now you get to follow your curious mind and ask questions about all the things you want to know!

If you get nervous, here are some easy questions:

- *Why?*
- *Really?*
- *What was that like?*
- *What happened next?*
- *How did you feel?*
- *What else do you remember?*



Or try an encouraging statement! That shows people that you're really listening, and that you're on the same team.

- *Wow.*
- *That sounds_____ (example: hard/exciting/disappointing)*
- *I never could have done that.*
- *That's amazing.*
- *I'm sorry that happened to you.*

Gratitude



At the end of the interview, it's really important to say thank you. This person just shared a piece of their life with you! That's a big gift.

So write (or draw) them a "thank you" note. If you're wondering what to say, you can tell them about:

- Something you learned in the interview
- Something you felt
- An experience you realized you had in common

This note is something the person can keep, and read again, and remember that you cared enough to listen.

Okay, I Did My First Interview! What's Next?

Write it up!

Write up the most interesting story you heard during your interview and share it with the rest of your family, or with your class at school. Why was it so interesting to you? What stood out? How did it make you feel?

Or create some art based on what you learned.

Draw a picture, write a poem, make a video, compose a song based on something you heard that inspired you.



Do it again!

Every time you interview someone, you get better at listening and asking questions and understanding what life feels like for someone else. So let's do this!

- Interview someone else in your home (or go back to the first person and ask them about a different chapter in their life).
- Find an interview buddy. You come up with questions for them, and they come up with questions for you. That way, you know how it feels to be interviewed, and more importantly, you're sharing parts of yourself with people you love.
- Bring some of your "Tell me about a time" questions to a family meal, and ask the group to pick one that everyone will answer.

Who Else Can I Interview?

There are so many people with awesome stories out there! So think about it: Of all the people you know, whose life would you like to learn about?

It's a pretty exciting question. Let's break down a few options. Then you can get an adult to help you do an interview by Zoom.



**It could be your friend,
or a fellow classmate.**

**It could be somebody you already
know, and want to know better-
like your older sister's best friend.**



**It could be a a senior in
your community.**

**It could be somebody your age
from a different community!
(Everyday Boston can help you
with that)**



About Everyday Boston

Everyday Boston is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that connects neighbors across the city through the sharing of stories. You can learn about our programs, and read the stories of your neighbors, by visiting our website at: everydayboston.org

If a young person in your life enjoyed this activity, we hope you'll consider:

- Passing this guide along to someone else who might enjoy it
- Making a donation of any size to support our work
- Tagging us in pics of your young people interviewing
- Recording the interview and sending us a 1-min clip

Thanks so much for reading and please take care.

Cara Solomon
Founder/Executive Director, Everyday Boston



Cara, as seen by a 6th grader

To get in touch:
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To donate:
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www.everydayboston.org

