

“The Interview”

Chapter 16

Our next speech will be based on an interview with an elderly person. For purposes of this assignment, the older the better. You may interview a relative, friend of the family, a neighbor, or even a stranger. The topic of your interview is what life was like for them when they were your age. Ask them for specific dates, places, etc.

CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEW

- ❖ Choose your person wisely, someone whom you have ready access to, who talks freely, and who is willing and able to devote the necessary time.
- ❖ Be prepared with questions. Tape responses if the interviewee consents, or write their responses. Finalize your notes soon after completing the interview while the information is fresh in your mind. Exact wording may be useful to you. We will work on some questions in class but you will probably have to supplement on your own.
- ❖ Make some quiet time for this interview so that both you and the interviewee can focus on responses.
- ❖ Be sensitive to the interviewee's responses. If he/she doesn't want to answer a specific question, ask another. If the interviewee spends a long time on a particular question, listen carefully. You will learn a great deal.
- ❖ Be courteous and patient. The interviewee is doing you a favor.
- ❖ Take advantage of this upcoming vacation to get to know one of your elderly relatives on a more personal level...and learn something about the past at the same time.

WRITING YOUR SPEECH

1. Once you have the results of your interview, you need to organize your material in speech form. You will need an attention-getting opener, elaboration on major points, and a conclusion that effectively ends your speech but does NOT repeat.
2. Your speech will be written in paragraph form.
3. You will need to ask a minimum of 20 questions which will be handed in on the day you deliver your speech.

DELIVERING THE SPEECH

1. Try to have a smooth delivery. If you are one of those speakers who links ideas with ...ah...um...like..., please don't.
2. You will only be allowed to take note cards with you to the podium. If you don't have note cards, you will have to speak from memory.
3. Speaking time will be 4-6 minutes.
4. Be prepared or lose one grade!