

Documentary Interview

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For this final interviewing project I interviewed a close friend of mine, Amanda Vadjinia. She is in the human services program with Western Washington University, at the Everett campus. We have been close friends for about 10 years and I knew interviewing her would be perfect for this project. As a friend I know she and her family have been through many trials and tribulations over the years. I wanted to specifically interview her about the ongoing family addiction concerns and how she manages to cope with them while in school and working full time.

Over all I feel the interview went fairly well. I was incredibly nervous in the beginning, knowing it was being recorded, but became more comfortable as the interview progressed. I felt accomplished when I was able to incorporate many of the interviewing techniques that were demonstrated throughout the weeks of course material. I found paraphrasing, summarizing, asking open and closed questions, and maintain a professional body posture much less of an issue than when I first began this class and was able to demonstrate these skills in the video.

All five of the interviewing stages were met within the interview. The introduction was very minimal and I did not need to build rapport. Being close friends with interviewee, I did not introduce myself or my background, but I did explain who would be viewing the interview later on. I also did not explain the informed consent in the interview because she was already fully aware of what was going to happen. The informed consent paper was filled out ahead of time before we began filming. The opening and body of the interview included open ended questions, closed questions, summarizing and paraphrasing on my part, attempting to gain more information and insight. The closing and termination could have been better. I did not summarize our time together like I should have and I could have added a comment about running out of time. Asking the interviewee if there were any additional comments or questions was included at the end of the interview, in the closing stage, which was followed by the termination.

The learning outcomes established in the syllabus, are necessary skills required in professional interviewing. In my documentary interview they can easily be depicted. As previously described, all five stages of interviewing were included. In the introduction, it was discussed that my instructor will be viewing the tape. Conversely, I did notice, that I did not mention the details of the interview would not be shared among anybody else. There wasn't any conflict, need to build rapport, problem solving, or requirement to make any decisions in this interview. Watching the video, I did notice a point early on where I did say "oh" and expressed a feeling and reaction to what was being said. This shouldn't have happened and wouldn't be acceptable in the field. This might be something I will need to really focus on later in my career to ensure it doesn't happen in the professional setting.

Creating a documentary interview was a challenge for me. Having the camera recording everything that took place was the scariest part. I feel I could have done better without the camera and without knowing I would be graded on how well I did. If I were strictly interviewing somebody to gain information or to assist them, I am confident in my skills and ability to do what is necessary in a given situation. This experience was unique to me and I am confident I can do well as a human service professional interviewing a client.