

Introduction Paragraph Requirements:

Name, claim to fame and background information, why you chose the person, how you found the person, date, time, place, atmosphere, and your goals for the interview.

Conclusion Paragraph Requirements:

Summary and reflection: success of experience, insight you gained, relevance to your senior project, any leads you gained or next moves from this interview, an epiphany, things you wished you had asked but forgot, closing remarks/ponderings/ evaluation.

SAMPLE Q & A INTERVIEW #1

In the middle of a late morning on my day off school, I took time out to get to know Bill Gates, President and CEO of Microsoft Corporation. We met at Starbucks in the Albertson's Center while he was on a break from the conference he was attending at the Rancho Bernardo Inn. My neighbor, a self-employed software engineer, knows Mr. Gates and was responsible for hooking him into the conference. My mentor set up the appointment and joined us for a cup of latte and some serious talk about the future of computers. Starbucks was the perfect place for us to spend the half hour. We sat at a corner table; Mr. Gates faced the corner wall to remain anonymous in a public place, and my mentor and I faced outward. I was a bit nervous at first, but Bill (as he asked me to call him) was so casual and friendly that I soon felt comfortable with him and our interview. I was able to ask him the most pressing questions I had and enjoyed reliving the interview in my mind as I drove back home.

Question: Mr. Gates, what do you see as the most pressing issue for software engineers today?

Answer: *Bill leaned back in his chair, placed his right hand on the table and started, "Well, Jane, I'll tell you what I've been thinking about these last few months." Then he sat up, raised his latte cup to his lips, took a sip, and began an explanation of his views. He said that [here you may paraphrase or write down exact quotes if you have them].*

Question: I am wondering...

Answer: *The answer is given in italics with quotation marks around direct quotes.*

Etc. -- Give all the questions and answers (in italics) that you asked and received. The writer said that this interview took ½ hour, so the reader expects to read the amount that would make up ½ hour of an interview.

I was very satisfied with my interview of Bill Gates. First of all, I couldn't believe that my mentor knew him. To be able to interview him right here in my own backyard was phenomenal. I never pictured myself at Starbucks with the most famous computer geek alive, but there I was, chatting with him as if I were an important journalist or a colleague. He was personable and very helpful. The most surprising thing I learned was ... I didn't realize that... My favorite quote is ... because... I think the response that is most relevant to my Senior Project is ... That was a ... The only disappointment I have about the whole thing is that I didn't ask him ... I didn't think of it until I was going over my notes and started wondering how his comment about ... could relate to ... Since he gave me his card and said that I could e-mail him this week if I thought of anything else, I am going to send him the question. I don't want to bother such a busy man, but he opened the door to me, and this is really something I need to know before I can settle on my thesis for my research paper. After this experience, I appreciate my mentor even more, and this whole process called the Senior Project. Without it, I wouldn't have had such an awesome "day off!"