

LIST versus LINES

a Worksheet to develop How you Ask Questions

The simple form of an interview involves making a list and asking the questions. But lists can be **R.A.S.D.O.M** and leave the interviewee sort of confused. A GREAT journalist plans the interview. Here we'll show how to turn a list into a more organized interview.

THE GIST OF THE STORY

START with the "Gist". What's the interview about? If you're interviewing the football star, then it might not be important to know about his favorite color or hobbies. The "what" of the interview is the grounding for the story you tell. It's like when you summarize a book for a friend.

You: Reading

Friend: "Hey! Whacha readin'?"

You: "A book."

Friend: "Duh. Let's see." She pushes up the cover to see the title. "Eclipse. What's that?"

You: You could explain that the book is the third in the series and about a girl, Bella, who is in love with a vampire named Edward. Meanwhile, her best friend is a werewolf and he's in love with her and vampires and werewolves don't like each other, but the bigger problem is that other vampires don't want her to love Edward and they'll stop at nothing to tear the two apart.

You could.

Instead You say: "It's a book about this girl whose in love with a vampire and all sorts of crap happens to her."

What you did is give the "GIST" of the story.

INTERVIEWING: Start with a gist about the story. Then think about who are you interviewing. What part of the story do you want them to tell. Are they the star or just a side player.

WRITE A LIST OF QUESTIONS: OKAY. SLOP IT OUT. WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT ANSWERED? JUST WRITE THEM. WRITE THEM THE WAY YOU WILL ASK THEM.

USE THE BACK SIDE AND THE GRAPH. Or make your own. JUST IGNORE THE SECOND COLUMN. We'll fill that in later.