

# SOC 363: INTERVIEW

## SEMI-DIRECTED INTERVIEW: THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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### SKILLS

- Learning about the juvenile justice system through lived experiences
- Inter-cultural abilities
- Researching and preparing for an interview
- Preparing an interview script
- Conducting an interview
- Transcribing an interview

### ASSIGNMENT

#### Interview:

Identify someone who has intimate knowledge of the criminal justice system. For example, here's a list of potential subjects:

- A police officer, a probation officer, a parole officer, a judge, someone who committed a delinquent act while under the age of 18, someone who has been through rehabilitation, a wrap-around facilitator at a restorative justice organization, a counselor, etc.

Ideally, you would interview someone living in Durango so that you can conduct your interview in person, but if necessary, you can interview someone from somewhere else as well. For this assignment, you can use the StoryCorps app (recommended), your phone, or a digital recorder to document your interview. For your interview please focus on any theme related to lecture and course readings. Once you have identified a person and a theme, you'll want to put together an interview script, which is essentially a list of questions that you'd like to ask the person you'll be sitting down with. You will work on your interview script in class with your classmates in the weeks leading up to this assignment's due date. Once you have a script, you'll want to set a time to conduct your interview. Please allow for roughly 45-60 minutes for your interview so that neither you nor your interviewee feels rushed.

In addition to turning in your interview recording, you should transcribe your interview and include analytical notes in the margins or by bracketing in-between transcriptions. Be sure to include the full name and age of your interviewee, as well as the time, place and subject of your interview. Please turn in both your interview script, transcription, and analytical notes via Canvas. For your convenience, I am providing an example of an interview script as well as of a transcribed interview. They are hyperlinked below the assignment description on the course website.

Toward the end of the semester you will have an opportunity to write an essay related to your interview and present your interview to the rest of the class. Additional instructions will be provided separately for this segment of the assignment.

### ASSESSMENT

- Interview script: 20%
- Transcription: 50%
- Analytical notes: 20%
- Grammar, punctuation, and attention to detail: 10%