

Informational Interview Overview

During the first half of this course you will design, conduct, and summarize an informal interview. This is an opportunity for you to interview an individual associated with a crime prevention program focusing on juveniles, or a person in law enforcement, and ask about their crime prevention efforts.

Your progress will be assessed in units 1, 2, 3, and 5 with the following assignments:

[Unit 1 Assignment 2: Informational Interview: Writing Interview Questions](#)

[Unit 2 Assignment 2: Informational Interview: Selecting someone to Interview](#)

[Unit 3 Assignment: Informational Interview: Conducting and Summarizing your Interview](#)

[Unit 5 Assignment: Informational Interview: Written Reflection](#)

Review each Assignment prior to starting this project.

Unit 1 Assignment 2

Informational Interview: Writing Interview Questions

Watch [Interviewing Ideas](#) to get started.

This informational interview is an opportunity for you to gather more material about crime prevention. Before choosing the actual individual you would like to interview, decide what you want to get out of the interview.

Brainstorm what kinds of information about crime prevention programs are of particular interest to you. You should conduct research of the program and individual you want to interview.

Search the internet and your textbook and look for national and local crime prevention programs.

Use your research to support your choice and to develop interview questions.

Create a list of 10 questions you would like to ask your interviewee.

****Note:** These will vary based on what this person does, and you do not need to report on all answers. You may wish to add to this list or change some questions as you get closer to the actual interview in Unit 3, but this will provide you with a solid starting point.

Some examples of questions you could ask are as follows:

- What are the program goals and objectives?
- Who are the individuals they serve?
- What are successes they have had within the program?

- How is the program funded?

Unit 2 Assignment 2

Informational Interview: Selecting Someone to Interview

This week you are required to identify a person you will interview and schedule an interview. Select more than one individual to interview in case your first choice is not available. Contact the program or individual and explain that you want to conduct an informational interview for your class assignment. Schedule the interview.

Compose your paper in Microsoft® Word®:

- State the interviewee's title and briefly describe what they do.
- Indicate the time and date you set up for the interview.

Unit 3 Assignment

Informational Interview: Conducting and Summarizing your Interview

This week you will actually conduct the interview and report your results. This assignment will require research. You are required to use at least two resources outside of the text for this course.

- Conduct the Interview
- Take notes of the answers as you conduct your interview.
- Write a 500–750 word summary of the interview to include the following:
 - Who you spoke with and why you chose that particular program and individual.
 - What questions you asked during the interview and the responses pertaining to the specific program.
 - What you learned from the interview.

Unit 5 Assignment

Informational Interview: Written Reflection

So far in this course, you have located an interviewee and prepared questions for the interview. You then conducted the interview and explained what you learned from it. This week, you will take what you learned from your interview and apply it to what you have learned in this course thus far. As you do this, please define terms and phrases and explain differences as they apply.

In a 3- to 5-page paper, respond to the following questions:

If your interviewee/program is law enforcement–related, do you believe that what they do is more community policing or problem-solving policing? Why?

1. If you were going to categorize what they do, would you say it is more crime control or crime prevention? Why?
2. Is what they do more of restorative justice, diversion, counseling, incapacitation, or some other form of crime prevention/control?
3. Does this person/program focus more on crime control or due process? Why?
4. Do you see your interviewee/program as being part of the official (traditional) criminal justice system, or are they outside of it (private company)?
5. Does your interviewee/program seem more in tune with the conservative belief that crime is based on a rational decision-making process and that diversion is best achieved by strong deterrents? Or do you take more of a liberal approach, where social, physical, and psychological issues factor in and treatment and counseling are viewed as being more effective? Explain.
6. Which of the goals of crime control (deterrence, retribution, incapacitation, rehabilitation) do you think best describes what your interviewee does? Explain.
7. What are your personal views of what your interviewee does? Do you believe they impact crime control/crime prevention?
8. What suggestions would you make to improve their efforts?

You are encouraged to use these questions as subheadings.

While much of this information is located in your textbook, you are also required to use at least three outside sources.