



WYOMISSING AREA JUNIOR - SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Corey Jones
Principal

Mr. Matthew Redcay
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June 2019

Dear Eighth-Grade Advanced Writing Workshop Student,

We are looking forward to an exciting year with you in Advanced Writing Workshop class. In order to prepare for our first unit of work on culture, you will need to complete a research project during the summer. Instructions for completing the project and the rubric for evaluating it are enclosed.

Instructions:

1. Choose six family members who are at least twenty years older than you are and make arrangements to interview them. If you cannot interview members of your family, ask neighbors or friends. Take advantage of family gatherings, which may take place during the summer.
2. Ask each person at least fifteen questions about his or her family, background, early childhood experiences, work, hobbies, education, etc. A list of possible interview questions is enclosed to provide you with ideas. You may ask questions from this list, questions of your own, or a combination of the two. Ask follow-up questions if the answers you are given don't provide much information; in other words, please don't accept "yes" or "no" answers without asking for more details. The questions you ask should vary from person to person and be based on their life experiences. There is a distinct difference between an interview and a questionnaire. Your task is to conduct an interactive interview. Make sure your questions include follow-up.
3. Make a record of your interview questions and answers. This record may be completed in written form (typed or handwritten neatly), on cassette tape, on a flash drive, or emailed. Label the information neatly with your name and the names and relationships of the six people you interviewed.
4. This project is worth 60 points. Bring your work to school on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. It will be collected on that day even if you do not have Advanced Writing Workshop class until later in the year. It is your responsibility to turn the work in on time. Be organized!

We hope that you enjoy yourself and get to know family members and friends better as you conduct these interviews. Remember, the goal is to conduct interesting, thorough interviews. See you in August!

Sincerely,

The English Department

Sample Questions (and follow-up questions)

1. Where were you born? What was it like growing up there?
2. Who was the first member of your family to come to America? How did that person arrive here?
3. Did you have any chores or jobs when you were young? What was your first paying job, and how much did you make?
4. Where did you go to school? Describe your school. What subjects were taught, and which were your favorites?
5. Which person has had the greatest influence on you? Why?
6. What was your favorite holiday when you were young? Why? Is it still your favorite?
7. What movies were popular when you were growing up? Did you admire any particular movie stars?
8. What songs were your favorites when you were young? What do you like or dislike about popular music today?
9. Did you have a favorite toy? When you were a teenager, what did you do for fun?
10. What fashions or fads do you remember?
11. What significant world events have you lived through? How have they affected you?
12. Where did you go on your first vacation? How did you get there?
13. Did you get married? If so, describe your wedding.
14. Do you have children? How old are they? What are their professions?
15. What is your favorite memory of childhood?
16. Did you have a best friend when you were growing up? Describe that relationship. Do you still keep in touch?
17. As a child, did you have a pet? Do you have one now?
18. Are there any special foods or recipes that are important to your family? Why are they important?
19. Are there any customs or traditions in your family that were brought from another country? Please explain them.
20. What would you like people to remember about you?

You may use these questions, your own questions, or a combination of the two. Remember that your goal is to find out as much as possible about the people you are interviewing, so ask follow-up questions. If you are really lucky, you may hear some great family stories that you never heard before. Listen carefully and have fun!

8th Grade Advanced Writing Workshop

Rubric for Interview Project

Deadline

Was the due date met? _____ / 10

Directions

Did you neatly label all parts?
Did you follow directions?
_____ / 20

Content

Did you ask appropriate questions?
Did you ask follow-up questions to elicit informative responses?
Did you record all questions and answers?

Interview #1- _____ / 5

Interview #2 - _____ / 5

Interview #3 - _____ / 5

Interview #4 - _____ / 5

Interview #5 - _____ / 5

Interview #6 - _____ / 5

TOTAL _____ / 60