

INTERVIEW ACTIVITY

Dr. Paul R. Carr

INTERVIEWER

Your role is to interview one of your colleagues in relation to racism in education. Your colleague will be the person that he/she is in reality, not role-playing some other personality. You are to be yourself, an educator and doctoral student who is conducting research on the theme of racism in education. Take a few minutes to develop a framework, or protocol, for the interview (the framework might include: introductions, framing the interview, questions, and wrapping up the interview). What would you like to ask the interviewee, and how? For the purposes of this activity, and it is understood that it is limited in many ways, try to seek an understanding of how the interviewee understands racism in education, and also what can be done to address racism in education. How far you take this theme is up to you. You have roughly 15 minutes for the interview. Be prepared afterwards to provide a briefing on the interview. A cautionary note: be aware of ethical considerations.

DR. PAUL R. CARR
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INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW ACTIVITY

INTERVIEWEE

You will be interviewed by a colleague. You are to be yourself. He/she will introduce the subject of the interview to you, and then engage you in a discussion. Take note of how he/she introduces him/herself as well as the theme. Also, be aware of their body-language, choice of words, comfort-level, and, especially, how they pose questions (do they engage you, or simply ask a list of questions?). Do they start with the general and then work toward the specific? Are the questions open-ended or close-ended? Do they follow-up on questions? Is the content of the questions appropriate? Did you enjoy the interview? Did you feel that it was mutually beneficial? Do you feel that you contributed positively to the research of the interviewer? Are there any ethical concerns about the interview? The interview will be roughly 15 minutes.

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FOCUS GROUP ACTIVITY

INTERVIEWER

You will conduct a focus group interview with a few of your colleagues, who will be themselves. As was the case with the Individual Interview activity, you are to act as yourself, not role-playing another personality. The subject of your research is the role of women in educational leadership positions. You want to understand the issues, the context, potential barriers and problems, and the experience of women in leadership positions so as to be able to further your research on gender and educational leadership. To this end, develop a framework for the focus group, taking into consideration that you will be dealing with a few people at the same time. How will ensure that everyone's voice is heard? Prepare some questions and notes, and develop an analysis of what you find out as well as how the methodology employed was beneficial or not.

DR. PAUL R. CARR
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FOCUS GROUP ACTIVITY

INTERVIEWEES

As a group of 3-5 colleagues, you will be interviewed by a colleague in a focus group on a theme to be introduced by the interviewer. You will be yourselves, as was the case with the Individual Interview activity. Remember that, although you may share some characteristics as a group, you are also individuals. Observe the rhythm, content, context and approach of the interviewer, and be prepared to discuss how you feel that the focus group went.