



STEAMatWork4kids.org Language Arts Lesson Plans

Lesson Title	HOW TO CONDUCT AND WRITE AN INTERVIEW
Objective(s)	Students will explore website www.steamatwork4kids.org to read interviews of STEAM professionals. They will then learn how to conduct an interview of a fellow student. Afterward, students may be asked to interview someone in their family or community.
National Common Core Standards	<p>Find CCSS.ELA-Literacy standards for your grade level in these sections.</p> <p>Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade level topics.</p> <p>Speaking and Listening: Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes</p>
Materials	Access to Promethean Board to explore www.STEAMatWork4Kids.org website. If possible, computers for students to explore the website on their own. Worksheet (below)
Procedure	<p>Part I – Introduce the STEAM at Work 4 Kids website Show students one of the interviews. Point out the features of each interview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Profile picture with introductory information• Interview• Photos• Suggested books• Suggested websites <p>Ask students to explore the site by reading 2 – 3 of the interviews.</p> <p>Part II – Come up with effective interview questions and techniques Present “Tips for Effective Interviews”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective interview questions touch on big important subjects.• Ask open-ended questions to keep the conversation going. They require more than a yes or no answer.• After an answer, see if you can ask follow up questions to get more details. Why? How did you feel? Can you give an example ...?



- Ask questions that show you were listening and that you care about the interviewee. Make eye contact, nod, listen, and let them have time to think and speak.

Brainstorm good interview questions with your students.

Some question starters might be:

- What would happen if ...
- Tell me about ...
- I wonder ...
- What would you do ...
- What do you think about ...
- How can we ...
- In what way ...
- How did you ...

You can look at the list of Story Corps questions at the end of this lesson plan for more good questions.

Hand out the Interview Worksheet below. Ask students to write down 8 questions they might use to conduct their interview. They will not need that many, but some questions may not elicit much response, so it's good to have backup questions.

Part III – Put students in pairs to interview each other.

If you have an odd number of students you can make one group a trio, or you can pair with the student who will interview you and you will interview them. You can ask students to jot down notes, or allow them to record the interview on their laptop. Using both handwritten notes and audio recording is a good practice.

- Give "Student 1" 15-20 minutes to interview "Student 2."
- Give "Student 2" 15-20 minutes to interview "Student 1."

Part IV – Ask students to organize the information they got. For younger students, interviews can be organized chronologically. When she was a baby, when she started school, what happened last year, etc. Another way to organize is to list their favorite things.

Older students should focus on what is really important. Was there something that kept coming up in the interview? What was their interviewee most excited to talk about? Students may need to ask further questions once they've determined what the theme of the interview will be.



Story Corps Questions (in case you get stuck for questions)

Great Questions List

- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- What are your goals for this year?
- What do you like best about yourself?
- What's something people wouldn't know about you just from looking at you?
- Tell a story about someone who has had a significant impact on your life.
- Tell a story about a place that is important to you. Paint a picture of the place and talk about why it's important to you.
- Tell a story about an accomplishment or event from your past that had a significant impact on you.
- Tell us a story that says something important about who you are.
- The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later successes. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma – anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could take to solve it.

Questions for Peer Interviews

- What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do?
- What are you proudest of in your life?
- Who has had the biggest influence on your life and how?

Questions to Ask Teachers

- Do you believe that this is a good school? Why or why not?
- Tell us a story that shows what you find most challenging/rewarding about being a teacher. ▪ Have you ever thought about changing your career? If so, why didn't you?
- How is this school different from or similar to the school you went to growing up?
- Tell us about a student who had a significant impact on you.
- What do you know now that you wish you had known on your first day as a teacher?
- Tell us a story about your biggest success in school.
- Tell us a story that illustrates what you're trying to learn to do better as a teacher?



- If you could tell your students something about you that they wouldn't know otherwise, what would it be?
- How do you want your students to remember you?
- Are there any words of wisdom you'd like to pass along to us?

More Suggested Questions for Family or Community Members

- What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?
- Who has been the biggest influence on your life?
- What lessons did you learn?
- What are you proudest of in your life?
- How has your life been different from what you'd imagined?
- Who are your best friends? What are they like?
- Tell me a story about the best teacher you ever had.
- Can you tell us a story about any cultural traditions observed by your family and help us understand why they are important?
- Tell us a story about your biggest success in school.
- Tell a story about what you learned from your biggest failure in school.
- Are there any words of wisdom you'd like to pass along to us?
- Do you have any favorite stories about...?
- What was it like where you grew up? What was your childhood like?
- What were your parents like?
- If you could do everything again, what would you do differently?
- Have you ever had your heart broken? Have you ever broken a heart?
- Can you tell me about your religious beliefs/spiritual beliefs?
- Tell the story of the circumstances that prompted your family's decision to immigrate to the United States.
- What were your first impressions of this country?
- How would you describe your initial living arrangements?
- What was it like where you grew up?
- What are your best memories? Worst memories?
- What is your ethnic background? What do you know about your ethnic background?
- Where are your parents from? Have they told you any stories about growing up or living where they're from?
- What are classic family stories? Songs? Jokes?
- What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?
- What are you proudest of in your life? Why?
- If you could any other type of job, what would it be? Why?
- What are your dreams for me?
- How would you like to be remembered?



Name _____

INTERVIEW WORKSHEET

INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS	Name of interviewee? Age? Where was interviewee born?
8 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS Record your answers separately on paper or electronically	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. "What have I forgotten to ask you?"
ORGANIZATION	Read your interview notes 2 or 3 times through. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlight the things that you find most interesting.• Look for a theme. Underline information about that theme. You may want to ask your interviewee more questions relating to your theme. Write up your interview. Start and end with the most important thing about your interviewee. Include photos if possible.