"Good Writing" Analysis Interview Questions

For your "Good Writing" Analysis project, you will need to **interview three (3) people who are "good writers"** about a specific writing term and how this term applies to their writing process. You can interview family members, friends, other instructors, former teachers, tutors, classmates, coworkers, sports teammates, orientation leaders, RAs, roommates, coaches, counselors, librarians, bosses, etc. The only person who you can't interview is me (your instructor for this class). You must be able to explain why each person you interview is a "good writer" in your eyes.

Below is a list of interview questions that you can use to build this project. **You need to ask a total of 6 questions** to each interviewee, and you should **ask your interviewees all the same questions** so you have consistent data. There are three that you must ask your interviewees. For the remaining 3 questions, you can choose from the list of questions provided and/or you can create your own.

You MUST ask…

- **How do you use [blank] in your writing process?**
- **How does [blank] positively and negatively impact your writing process?**
- **Why do you [blank] in your writing process?**

Example:

If your term is revision, you would fill in the blanks of these bolded questions like this:

- How do you use **revision** in your writing process?
- How does **revision** positively and negatively impact your writing process?
- Why do you **revise** in your writing process?

Then, you'll pick three more questions that you want to ask all of your interviewees. I recommend choosing ones that you are genuinely interested in learning more about. You can also create your own, though you should run these questions by me.
Pick three (3) additional questions:

- How has [blank] changed in your writing process?
- How does [blank] in your writing process change depending on the kind of writing you are doing?
- Why do you believe [blank] is important in your writing process?
- How do you know when to [blank] when writing?
- How much does [blank] impact your writing process?
- How does understanding [blank]'s impact on your writing process make you a better writer?
- What are some of your strategies for using [blank] in your writing process?
- Can you describe a specific moment when you used [blank] in your writing process?
- Are there times when you do not [blank] in your writing process? Why or why not?

Note: you may find that some of these questions (including the three you must ask) need to be edited slightly based on the writing term that you chose. This is okay! If you are feeling stuck about how to edit your questions to fit your writing term, ask me about how you can revise them.

Interviewing Logistics

These interviews can happen lots of different ways. You can do them in-person or on Zoom (you'll need to record the interview if you decide on this as your option). You can send your interviewees their questions over email or over text as well, which will create a written record of their responses automatically. You can also do a combination of these options based on what works for your interviewees and your schedules.

Additionally, here are some Do's and Don'ts for interviewing that you should be aware of as an ethical and responsible researcher.

DO…

- **Ask your interviewees in advance** about their availability and preferred way to interview.
- **Have 1-2 people in mind as back-up interviewees** in case your first three choices don't all work out. You MUST interview 3 people for this project. If someone says no or can't work it out in their schedule, then get in touch with someone else immediately.
- **Explain why you are interviewing them**. Not only is this important for helping them understand your project, but many times people are much more likely to participate if they know this project is something for school.

DON'T…

- **Record without letting them know**. As an ethical researcher, you must get someone's consent before recording them and make sure they are comfortable with this.
- **Use these recordings or data outside of this project**. There are a lot of complicated ethical issues with this, but essentially, your interviewees agreed to participate in this project and only this project. You should not share these recordings or use this data outside of this project, because they didn't agree to that. If you have questions or concerns about this, please let me know and I am happy to support you.