

Tips for conducting a successful interview

So, you are going to be conducting an ethnobotanical interview. This is a wonderful chance for you to hear more about the importance of plants in human life. There is a lot to be learned from elder members of the community. This tip list is designed to help you get the most out of your interview.

1. Don't forget your materials! You will need the interview guide we have given you, your composition notebook, a pen or pencil, a clipboard and maybe even a recorder.
2. Make sure you introduce yourself to the person you are interviewing. Be friendly and listen well.
3. Take a look at your interview guide. Say you just asked the question, "Where were you born?" The person you are interviewing might answer, "I was born in 1947, in Miami, Florida and have lived here all my life". If this is the case, you would not have to ask the person questions like what year they were born, where they grew up, or how long they have lived in Miami!
4. If you do not understand something, don't be afraid to ask the person you are interviewing to repeat it.
5. Try to stay on task. If the person you are interviewing starts talking about a trip to Paris or winning the lottery, don't be rude, just try to bring them back to the subject by asking another question.
6. If you feel like you need help asking a question, or are not sure about what you should do next, don't be afraid to ask someone to help you.
7. Most importantly, have fun!

