

Teach to Talk™ Interview Strategy Sheet

A pre-interview refresher for effective, ethical, and strategic interviews.

Before You Begin

- Adhere to professional standards & legal guidelines
- Review case facts, but keep an open mind
- Identify objectives:
 - What do I know
 - What do I need to learn?
 - Who do I want to interview?
- Prepare open-ended starter prompts (TEDS PIE)
- Decide when/if evidence will be introduced
 - future, soft, direct
- Rapport Building - Lights on/Lights off
- Room setup:
 - The subject is always **closest to the door**
 - **No barrier** between subject and interviewer
 - Translator seated **behind** the subject
 - Witness **out of sight** of the subject

Free Narrative

- Encourage uninterrupted storytelling
- Don't jump in too early - Let silence work
- **Summarize after each topic** to confirm accuracy
- Note discrepancies for later follow-up
- **Do Not Interrupt**

Note-Taking

- Write down **ONLY** essentials during the interview:
 - **P**eople
 - **L**ocations
 - **A**ctions
 - **T**imes
 - **O**bjects

Teach to Talk™

Communication shapes the interview. The way you **ask questions** and **provide direction** influences the responses you receive. Clear communication helps guide the interviewee toward providing **accurate and reliable information** without influencing their responses.

- **Explain the process**
 - Take your time | Think before, think after | I may need you to slow down | I may need you to pause
 - Tell me if you don't understand something | It's about the details
- **Closing the Interview**
 - Ask, "Is there anything I haven't asked that you think I should know?"

Rapport Building

- Show respect; project professionalism
- Use open body language
- Active Listening: nods, brief reflections
 - "So, what you're saying is..."
 - "Can you explain what you mean by..."
 - "It sounds like you're feeling..."
- Motivational Interviewing
 - empathy, autonomy, acceptance, free narrative & adaptation
- Use the **PAUSE**
- **Do Not Interrupt**

Questioning Framework

- **TEDS Pie**
 - **Tell** me what happened
 - **Explain** what happened next
 - **Describe** what you saw
 - **Show** me where he hit you
 - Ask for details:
 - **Precisely**
 - **In detail**
 - **Exactly**



Strategic Use of Evidence

Introduce evidence progressively, depending on rapport

- **Future Tense**
 - "If I were to review X, is there any reason I would see you?"
- **Soft Confirmation**
 - "We have reason to believe..."
- **Direct Presentation**
 - "I've reviewed X, and I see Y"



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