

How to Prepare for an Author Interview

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This activity requires you to prepare for a fictional interview with Ernest Shackleton, explorer and author of *South: Journal of His Last Expedition to Antarctica*. Read the tips below, which will help you formulate your questions. You will need to write 7 to 10 hypothetical questions.

Tips:

- Good questions are “open ended,” which means they can’t be answered with a simple “yes” or “no” response. If you have a question that can only be answered that way, follow it up with “Can you explain why?”
- Do your research. While you have learned a good deal about Shackleton from reading his story, see if you can find additional information about his life before and after this journey. Learning more about him will likely lead you to more topics for potential questions.
- Review the text. If you took notes as you read, and found you had questions about certain things, you can use those in your interview.

How to Conduct an Author Interview

After you have done your research and formulated your questions, you are ready to conduct your interview. The first steps would be setting up a time and place. From there, you will need to keep the following in mind:

- A good interviewer arrives on time.
- Even though you might be nervous, it is important to look relaxed and make the interviewee relaxed as well. He or she might be as nervous as you!
- Be prepared. Have adequate paper and pens. If you have a recording device, make sure it’s working, but don’t count on it to get all the information. Make sure you take notes as well.
- Be polite; don’t talk or text during the interview. Make your subject feel important, as this might allow more thoughts to be shared.