

Assignment: Interview a Music Educator

Task: Interview a Music Educator and report your findings (approx. 1500 words).

- Identify a suitable interviewee (someone you think you can learn something useful from).
- Think about what, exactly, you hope to learn. What is the knowledge the person has that you would like to share? (*What instruments are best? How do you get boys interested in singing? How do you assess? What are your favourite pieces to perform with grade 6? How do you manage unruly music makers?*) Construct a list of questions that will help you to get the data YOU need to help you be the kind of music educator you want to be!
- Interview the educator—be sure to allow the teacher to say what s/he wants/needs to say—don't over-control the interview; be prepared to pursue tangents and encourage stories—this is often how knowledge is best communicated.
- Transcribe your interview.
- Analyze it to identify the chunks of useful knowledge and highlight salient quotations to use in the report.
- Construct the paper to report your findings as follows:

- *Background:* Introduce the teacher. Provide the context for the information you are about to share—what is the nature of his/her music-teaching experience? Facts but also your personal perceptions/stories of this person are appropriate.
- *Findings:* Communicate your findings. Do NOT copy and paste the interview transcript. Instead, synthesize key aspects of the educator's knowledge, quoting from the interview where appropriate to provide examples.
- *Implications for Practice:* Discuss how you or other music educators might use what you have learned and described here to inform music teaching and learning practices.

Assessment Rubric

Did the report contain sufficient context for the reader to make sense of the information presented?

A insightful rich contextualization	B rich contextualization	C some contextualization	D very little contextualization
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Has sufficient useful data been collected to advance understanding of music teaching?

A absolutely	B yes	C some more needed	D a lot more needed
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Has the interview been thoroughly analyzed with key aspects of teacher knowledge identified and thoughtfully unpacked?

A absolutely	B yes	C to some extent	D a lot more needed
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Are useful and practical implications for teaching synthesized and communicated?

A absolutely	B yes	C to some extent	D a lot more needed
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Communication: Is the report clear, well-written, effectively organized, and error-free?

A ready for publication	B for the most part	C some problems	D serious problems
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