

Interview Assignment: *Tapping into Teacher Knowledge*

Students will interview an educator that they can learn from (e.g. a favourite teacher) in order to explore that teacher's knowledge of teaching and learning. Students will analyze the data using qualitative and/or artistic processes, and submit a report (c. 2000-2500 words) that discusses findings and connects to literature. Students will present a brief summary of the report to the class.

The purpose of the interview assignment is twofold:

- 1) To engage students in a qualitative research exercise;
- 2) To inform students' own developing teaching practices by tapping into an experienced educator's knowledge of teaching and learning.

Student-researchers will identify educators amongst their personal contacts that they feel they can learn from (e.g. a favourite teacher). Students will contact the potential participant by email, phone, or in person, describe the interview assignment, offer the attached LOI/CF, and invite the educator to participate.

Students will develop interview questions in consultation with the course instructor. Prior to the interview, the student interviewer will ask the interviewee to read and sign the letter of information/consent. Interviews will be conducted at locations convenient to the participants (e.g. place of work, coffee shop, etc). Interviews will last approximately 45 to 60 minutes and will be audio-recorded for transcription.

Students will analyze the data using qualitative procedures: closely and repeatedly reading the interview transcript to identify what is significant; systematically assigning essence-capturing codes to significant text segments; and organizing coded data into categories. As an outcome of coding and organizing the data, students will, ideally, notice emergent themes (patterns, trends, or concepts). Students will develop narratives that present and unpack these themes, drawing from the data to illustrate and support their findings.

The interview assignment will result in a report submitted to the course instructor. Data and findings will be discussed in class; however, confidentiality of the participants will be maintained to the extent possible (e.g. pseudonyms will be used and any identifying information withheld from discussions and reporting).

The report will include two sections and an appendix:

Findings—themes representative of various aspects of the participant's knowledge of teaching and learning are presented and unpacked, with text drawn from the data to illustrate and support findings

Implications—explanation/discussion of how the knowledge identified and elucidated through this interview assignment might inform teaching and learning practices

Appendix: Raw Data—a transcript of the interview

Assessment Criteria

Collecting the data: The data collected enables the interviewer to gain understanding of the participant's knowledge of teaching and learning

A • the interview results in the highly effective elicitation of relevant data	B • the interview results in the elicitation of relevant data	C • the interview results in limited elicitation of relevant data
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Analyzing/making sense of the data: The analysis of the data identifies and elucidates the participant's knowledge of teaching and learning. *What are the understandings of teaching and learning represented within the participants' words?*

A • the analysis is highly effective in identifying and elucidating the participant's knowledge of teaching and learning	B • the analysis identifies and elucidates the participant's knowledge of teaching and learning	C • the analysis falls short in identifying and elucidating the participant's knowledge of teaching and learning
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Implications/Connecting to practice: The report explains how the knowledge identified and elucidated through this interview assignment can inform teaching and learning practices. *How can you apply what you have learned here in your own teaching?*

A • implications for teaching practice are thoroughly explored	B • implications for teaching practice are addressed	C • implications for teaching practice are lacking
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LETTER OF INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

Course-Based Interview Assignment: Tapping into Teacher Knowledge

Dear Potential Participant,

I am asking you to participate in an interview assignment that I am carrying out as part of my coursework in the Faculty of Education at Queen's University. This assignment has been granted clearance according to the recommended principles of Canadian ethics guidelines, and Queen's policies.

What is this assignment about? The purpose of this assignment is to inform my developing teaching practices by tapping into an experienced educator's knowledge of teaching and learning.

What does this assignment involve? I will interview you about your knowledge and experiences of teaching and learning either in person (at a location of your choice) or by telephone or Skype at a time that is convenient for you. The interview will take approximately 45 to 60 minutes and will be audio-recorded.

Are there any risks involved in participating in this interview? There are no known risks associated with participating in the interview. You do not need to answer questions that you do not want to answer or that make you feel uncomfortable.

Is my participation voluntary? Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you decide to be interviewed, you may withdraw at any time and for any reason (even after signing the consent form), without pressure or consequence of any kind. You may also request the removal of all or part of your data from the assignment. To withdraw please contact me, or my course instructor, by email or phone.

Confidentiality (Who will know what I said or did in the interview?) The assignment will result in a report submitted to the course instructor. Data and findings will be discussed in class; however, your confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. I will replace your name and all names you mention with pseudonyms and will withhold any identifying information (such as the location of your workplace) from discussions and reporting. The class will be cautioned to treat the data as confidential. The assignment will not result in any further form of publication or dissemination. The recording and transcript of your interview will be kept secure in password-protected computer files. These files will be deleted at the end of the course.

What if I have concerns? If you have any questions about this research assignment, you can contact me:

Student name: _____

Student email: _____

...or the course instructor, Dr. Benjamin Bolden (ben.bolden@queensu.ca; 613-533-6000 ext. 77762). Any ethical concerns may be directed to the Education Research Ethics Board (ereb@queensu.ca).

What do I do if I am interested in participating in this interview? Please complete and sign the consent portion of this letter (below). Please retain a copy of this letter for your reference.

CONSENT

I have read and understand the information presented in this letter of information and consent form about the Course-Based Interview Assignment: Tapping into Teacher Knowledge. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my involvement. I have retained a copy of this letter of information and consent form. I agree to participate.

Participant's name:

Signature:

Date:

General Introductory Letter for Students to Give to the Educator

(to be forwarded by the educator to his/her Principal/Board if desired)

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in participating in my interview assignment entitled ***Tapping into Teacher Knowledge*** that I will be carrying out as part of my coursework in the Faculty of Education at Queen's University, supervised by Dr. Ben Bolden.

The purpose of the interview assignment is twofold:

- 1) To engage students in a qualitative research exercise;
- 2) To inform students' own developing teaching practices by tapping into an experienced educator's knowledge of teaching and learning.

We have been asked to identify educators amongst our personal contacts who we can learn from (e.g. a favourite teacher).

We have developed interview questions in consultation with the course instructor. We will analyze the data using qualitative procedures. The interview assignment will result in a report submitted to the course instructor. Data and findings will be discussed in class; however, confidentiality of the participants will be maintained to the extent possible (e.g. pseudonyms will be used and any identifying information withheld from discussions and reporting). The class will be cautioned to treat the data as confidential. The assignment will not result in any further form of publication or dissemination.

If you have any questions about this interview assignment, you can contact me (*info below*), or the course instructor, Dr. Benjamin Bolden (ben.bolden@queensu.ca; 613-533-6000 ext. 77762). Any ethical concerns may be directed to the Education Research Ethics Board (ereb@queensu.ca).

Student Name:

Student Email:

Signature:

Date: