

Student Interview Guide

Opening Statement

Hello, my name is Brittany and I'm a graduate student at Columbia University. Thank you for agreeing to do this interview with me today. First, I'm going to ask you to complete a short pre-interview survey. Then, I'm going to ask you some questions about your background and your experiences in school. We are going to be very informal, so this should feel more like a regular conversation rather than an actual "interview."

There are no right or wrong answers to my questions, so please answer as honestly as you can. If there is a topic that you don't want to talk about, that's fine. You can just tell me you don't want to talk about it, and we'll move on. Remember, your participation is voluntary. You are free to take a break or stop at any time. Do you understand? [GET VERBAL AGREEMENT]

I'm going to voice record our conversation, because I want to listen to you rather than take a lot of notes. That way, I can really focus on what you have to say. If you want me to turn off the recorder at any time, just say so. No one will hear the recording except for the research team. We will erase the recording at the end of the study. To protect your privacy, we will exclude your real name and personal information from the transcript of this recording. In other words, no one will know who you are, but a lot of people will hear the important things you have to say.

Is it okay to turn the recorder on now? [GET VERBAL CONSENT] The recorder is now on. Any questions? Okay, let's get started. [ADMINISTER THE PRE-INTERVIEW SURVEY]

Interview Questions

School

1. Let's start with a conversation about school. How do you feel about school in general?
2. Tell me about the schools you went to before this one.
3. Tell me how you feel about your current school.
4. What do you like about your school?
5. What don't you like about your school?
6. Tell me about the classes you're taking now. [Probe: What subjects? How are you doing in class?]

Teachers

7. Tell me about your teachers for each of these classes. [Probe: How do you feel about this teacher?]
8. Tell me about some of your positive experiences with your teachers. [Probe: Examples?]
9. Tell me about some of your negative experiences with your teachers. [Probe: Examples?]
10. Do you have a favorite teacher? Tell me about him/her.

Student-teacher Trust

11. You responded _____ to the survey statement "I feel like I can trust my teachers." Tell me more about your response.

12. What does it mean for you to trust a teacher?
13. What makes a teacher trustworthy? [Probe: Examples?]
14. Who are the teachers in your school whom you trust the most? [Probe: Names? Why?]
15. Who are the teachers in your school whom you trust the least? [Probe: Names? Why?]

Peers

16. I am also interested in learning about your friends. Do most of your friends go to this school?
17. How do your friends generally feel about school?
18. Have your friends told you about any positive experiences they've had teachers? [Probe: Examples?]
19. Have your friends told you about any negative experiences they've had teachers? [Probe: Examples?]
20. Have your friends ever given you advice on how to interact with teachers? [Probe: Examples?]
21. Do you feel like you can trust most of your friends?

Family

22. Now, let's chat a bit about your family. Who do you live with at home?
23. How is your family involved in your education? [Probe: Examples?]
24. Has your family ever told you what they think about your teachers? [Probe: Tell me more.]
25. Has your family ever given you advice on how to interact with your teachers? [Probe: Tell me more.]
26. Has your family even given advice on whom to trust? [Probe: Tell me more.]
27. Do you feel like you can trust most of your family members?

Neighborhood

28. Now, let's talk about your neighborhood. What neighborhood do you live in? [Probe: Cross streets?]
29. What is the best thing about your neighborhood?
30. What is the worst thing about your neighborhood?
31. How do you feel about the people who live in your neighborhood?
32. Do you feel like you can trust most of the people in your neighborhood?

Personal

33. [Ask about responses to pre-interview survey questions]
34. Tell me about one of the hardest times in your life. [Probe: What happened? How did it change you?]
35. Tell me about one of the happiest times in your life. [Probe: What happened? How did it change you?]
36. To help me get to know you a bit better, can you walk me through a typical week in your life?
37. What do you see yourself doing in 5 years? 10 years?
38. Is there anything else you want to share with me today?
39. Do you have any questions for me?

Closing Statement

Our interview has come to an end. Your thoughts and experiences will contribute a great deal to this research study. I really want to thank you for your time and participation. But, before we wrap up, please take a few minutes to complete one last short survey. [ADMINISTER THE POST-INTERVIEW SURVEY]

Student Pre-Interview Survey

Survey Instructions

This survey is not a test and there are no right or wrong answers. This survey is confidential. No one at your school will ever see your individual answers. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer, but I hope you will answer as many questions as you can. If there is something on this survey that you do not understand, please let me know so that I can help you.

Survey Questions

1. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that most people cannot be trusted?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Most people can be trusted
- Most people cannot be trusted
- It depends
- I don't know

2. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your current school and teachers?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE ON EACH LINE)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. There is at least one adult in the school that I can confide in.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. My teachers will always listen to students' ideas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. My teachers always do what they say they will do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. My teachers treat me with respect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. When my teachers tell me not to do something, I know they have a good reason.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your current school and teachers?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE ON EACH LINE)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. There is at least one adult in this school that understands me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Teachers at this school are interested in students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. In class I often feel “put down” by my teachers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I go to school because my teachers expect me to succeed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I feel like I can trust my teachers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. How often have you had trouble getting along with your teachers?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Never
- Just a few times
- About once a week
- Almost everyday
- Everyday

5. Is there anything else you would like to share about any of your answers above? If so, please write it here:

**END OF SURVEY
THANK YOU!**

Student Post-Interview Survey

Survey Instructions

This survey is not a test and there are no right or wrong answers. This survey is confidential. No one at your school will ever see your individual answers. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer, but I hope you will answer as many questions as you can. If there is something on this survey that you do not understand, please let me know so that I can help you.

Contact Information

6. What is your name?

First	Last

7. Can Brittany contact you by phone or email to schedule another interview in the future?

- Yes
- No

School Experiences

8. What is the name of your high school?

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9. What grade are you in?

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10. What is your MOST favorite subject in this school?

11. What is your LEAST favorite subject in this school?

12. In general, how hard do you try to do your schoolwork well?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- I try very hard to do my best
- I try hard enough, but not as hard as I could
- I don't try very hard
- I never try at all

Personal Background

13. How old are you?

14. What is your gender?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Male
- Female
- Other: _____

15. Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Yes
- No

16. Which option(s) best describe your race?

(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian

- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other: _____

17. In what country were you born?

18. How old were you when you moved to the United States? (If you were born in the United States, please skip this question.)

19. What languages do you speak at home?

Family Background

20. Who lives at home with you?

(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Mother
- Father
- Stepfather
- Stepmother
- Grandmother
- Grandfather
- Siblings
- Other: _____

21. In what country was your MOTHER (or FEMALE GUARDIAN) born?

22. What is your MOTHER'S (or FEMALE GUARDIAN's) highest level of education?
(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Less than high school
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college
- Associate's or vocational degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's, Doctoral, other advanced degree
- Other: _____

23. Is your MOTHER (or FEMALE GUARDIAN) currently working?
(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Yes (continue to Question 22)
- No, my mother is unemployed (skip to Question 23)
- No, my mother is retired (skip to Question 23)

24. What is your MOTHER'S (or FEMALE GUARDIAN'S) current job? (Please write her most recent job if she's unemployed or retired.)

25. In what country was your FATHER (or MALE GUARDIAN) born?

26. What is your FATHER'S (or MALE GUARDIAN'S) highest level of education?
(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Less than high school
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college
- Associate's or vocational degree

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's, Doctoral, other advanced degree
- Other: _____

27. Is your FATHER (or MALE GUARDIAN) currently working?
(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Yes *(continue to Question 27)*
- No, my father is unemployed *(skip to Question 28)*
- No, my father is retired *(continue to Question 28)*

28. What is your FATHER'S (or MALE GUARDIAN'S) current job? *(Please write his most recent job if he's unemployed or retired.)*

29. Is there anything else you would like to share about any of your answers above? If so, please write it here:

**END OF SURVEY
THANK YOU!**

Student Free-write Prompts

Trust

1. What does trust mean to you?

2. Who are the adults in your life that you trust?

3. What makes these adults trustworthy?

Respect

4. What does respect mean to you?

5. Who are the adults in your life that show you respect?

6. How do these adults show their respect for you?

Teacher Interview Guide

Opening Statement

Hello, my name is Brittany and I'm a student at Columbia University. Thank you for agreeing to do this interview with me today. As you may know, we are conducting a study on the schooling experiences of some of your students. To more fully understand their experiences, it is imperative that we gain your insight. Therefore, I would like to chat with you about your perspective and your overall experience as a teacher. Please remember that your participation is voluntary, so you are free to end this interview at any time.

I would like to voice record our conversation, because I want to listen to you rather than take a lot of notes. That way, I can really focus on what you have to say. If you want me to turn off the recorder at any time, just say so. No one will hear the recording except for the research team. The recording will be destroyed at the end of the research study. To protect your identity, we will exclude your real name and personal information from the transcript of this recording.

Is it okay to turn the recorder on now? [GET VERBAL CONSENT] The recorder is now on. Any questions? Okay, let's get started.

Interview Questions

Introduction

1. How did you come to be a teacher? [PROBE: Why did you pursue a teaching career? When did you know that you wanted to be a teacher?]

Work Experiences

2. How many years have you been teaching?
3. When did you begin working at this school?
4. What other schools did you work at before this one?
5. What subjects do you teach at this school?
6. What grades do you teach at this school?
7. Do you work with students in any other capacity? [PROBE: Coach? Club advisor?]
8. What do you like MOST about teaching at this school?
9. What do you like LEAST about teaching at this school?

Students

10. In your experience, what types of students are easiest to work with? [PROBE: Personal Background? Skill level? Effort level?]
11. What types of students are most difficult to work with? [PROBE: Personal Background? Skill level? Effort level?]
12. In your experience, what are some of the biggest challenges your students face outside of school?
13. Can you describe any strategies you use to better relate to your students?
14. Do you feel as though your students respect your authority as a teacher? [PROBE: Why? Can you provide some examples?]

15. Do you feel as though your students trust you? [PROBE: Why? Can you provide some examples?]
16. How do you know when a student trusts you? [PROBE: Can you provide some examples?]
17. How do you know when a student doesn't trust you? [PROBE: Can you provide some examples?]
18. Can you describe any strategies you use to gain the trust of your students?
19. Do you think it's possible for students to learn from teachers whom they don't trust?
20. How would you describe your general philosophy on teaching and engaging students?

Colleagues

21. Would you say that your fellow teachers share your same philosophy on teaching? What about school leadership? [PROBE: Why? Can you provide some examples?]
22. Are your colleagues interested in learning about the diverse backgrounds and everyday life experiences of their students? [PROBE: How can this school improve in this area?]

Parents and Community

23. Are most of your students' parents engaged in their children's education? [PROBE: Do they attend parent/teacher conferences, attend other school functions, volunteer, help with homework?]
24. Can you describe any strategies you use to better engage parents?
25. Would you say that most of your students' parents respect your authority as a teacher? [PROBE: Why? Can you provide some examples?]

Wrap-up

26. [ASK ANY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS]
27. Can you tell me about your personal background? [PROBE: Where did you grow up? What was your home life like? Where did you go to school/college? What were your schooling experiences like?]
28. Is there anything else you would like to share with me today?
29. Do you have any questions that you'd like to ask me?

Closing Statement

Our interview has come to an end. Your thoughts and experiences will contribute a great deal to this research study. I really want to thank you for your time and participation. But, before we wrap up, please take a few minutes to complete this short survey. [ADMINISTER THE POST-INTERVIEW SURVEY]

Teacher Post-Interview Survey

Survey Instructions

This survey is confidential. No one at your school or DOE will ever see your individual answers. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer, but I hope you will answer as many questions as you can. If there is something on this survey that you do not understand, please let me know so that I can assist you.

Contact Information

30. What is your name?

First	Last

31. What is your phone number?

(_____)	_____ - _____
Area Code	Number

32. What is your email address?

33. Can Brittany contact you by phone or email to schedule another interview in the future?

- Yes
 No

Teaching Experiences

34. What is the name of the high school where you currently teach?

35. What subject(s) do you teach at this school?

36. What grade(s) do you teach at this school?

37. Counting this year, how many years have you taught at this school?

38. Counting this year, how many years have you taught in total?

39. Suppose you could go back to college and start over again. In view of your present knowledge, would you become a teacher?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Certainly would
- Probably would
- Chances for and against are even
- Probably would not
- Certainly would not

40. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
(MARK ONE RESPONSE ON EACH LINE)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
f. Trust is important for the learning process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I create a learning environment that reflects the various backgrounds of all of my students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. I notice when my students are upset or having emotional difficulty.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. I have trouble relating to my students sometimes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. I expect all students in my classes to succeed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

41. When students are successful in school, it is often attributed to one of the following sources. In your opinion, how important is each source of success?
(MARK ONE RESPONSE ON EACH LINE)

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Not very Important	Not at all Important
a. Student's home background	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Student's intellectual ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Student's enthusiasm or perseverance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Teacher's attention to the unique interests and abilities of the student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Teacher's use of effective methods of teaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

f. Teacher's enthusiasm or perseverance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Personal Background

42. What academic degree(s) do you hold?

(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- No degree
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctorate degree
- Other: _____

43. What is your gender?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Male
- Female
- Other: _____

44. Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Yes
- No

45. Which option(s) best describe your race?

(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other: _____

46. Is there anything else you would like to share about any of your answers above? If so, please write it here:

**END OF SURVEY
THANK YOU!**

Principal Interview Guide

Opening Statement

Hello, my name is Brittany and I'm a graduate student at Columbia University. Thank you for agreeing to do this interview with me today. As you may know, we are conducting a study on the schooling experiences of some of your students. To more fully understand their experiences, it is imperative that we gain your insight. Therefore, I would like to chat with you about your perspective and your overall experience as a principal. Please remember that your participation is voluntary, so you are free to end this interview at any time.

I would like to voice record our conversation, because I want to listen to you rather than take a lot of notes. That way, I can really focus on what you have to say. If you want me to turn off the recorder at any time, just say so. No one will hear the recording except for the research team. The recording will be destroyed at the end of the research study. To protect your identity, we will exclude your real name and personal information from the transcript of this recording.

Is it okay to turn the recorder on now? [GET VERBAL CONSENT] The recorder is now on. Any questions? Okay, let's get started.

Interview Questions

Work Experience

1. How did you come to be an educator?
2. How many years have worked in the field of education?
3. How many years have you been principal?
4. When did you begin working at this school?
5. How did you become the principal at this school?
6. What other schools did you work at before this one?
7. What do you like most about being the principal of this school?
8. What do you like least about being the principal of this school?
9. Do you work with students in any other capacity? [PROBE: Coach? Club advisor?]

Students

10. In your experience, what types of students are easiest to work with? [Probe: Background? Skill level? Effort level?]

11. What types of students are most difficult to work with? [Probe: Background? Skill level? Effort level?]
12. What are some of the biggest challenges your students face outside of school?
13. Can you describe any strategies you use to better relate to your students?
14. How would you describe your general philosophy on engaging students?
15. How would you describe your philosophy on trust in schools?
16. How do you know when a student trusts you? [Probe: Examples?]
17. How do you know when a student doesn't trust you? [Probe: Examples?]
18. Tell me about the strategies you use to build trust in this school.

Parents

19. Are most of your students' parents engaged in their children's education? [Probe: How?]
20. Would you say that most of your students' parents respect your authority as a principal?
21. Do you feel as though most parents trust you? [Probe: Examples?]
22. How do you know when a parent trusts you? [Probe: Examples?]
23. How do you know when a parent doesn't trust you? [Probe: Examples?]

Wrap-up

24. Can you tell me more about your background? [Probe: Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school/college?]
25. Is there anything else you would like to share with me today?
26. Do you have any questions for me?

Closing Statement

Our interview has come to an end. Your thoughts and experiences will contribute a great deal to this research study. I really want to thank you for your time and participation. But, before we wrap up, please take a few minutes to complete this short survey. [ADMINISTER THE POST-INTERVIEW SURVEY]

Principal Post-Interview Survey

Survey Instructions

This survey is confidential. No one at your school or the DOE will ever see your individual answers. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer, but I hope you will answer as many questions as you can. If there is something on this survey that you do not understand, please let me know so that I can assist you.

Contact Information

1. What is your name?

First	Last

2. What is your phone number?

(_____)	_____ - _____
Area Code	Number

3. What is your email address?

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4. Can Brittany contact you by phone or email to schedule another interview in the future?

- Yes
 No

Experiences as an Educator

5. What is the name of the high school where you are currently a principal?

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6. Counting this year, how many years have you been a principal at this school?

7. Counting this year, how many years have you been an educator in total?

8. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
(MARK ONE RESPONSE ON EACH LINE)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
k. Trust is important for building positive student-teacher relationships.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. I create a school environment that reflects the various backgrounds of all of my students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. I expect all students in my school to succeed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Personal Background

9. What academic degree(s) do you hold?

(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- No degree
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctorate degree
- Other: _____

10. What is your gender?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Male
- Female
- Other: _____

11. Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- Yes
- No

12. Which option(s) best describe your race?

(MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other: _____

13. Is there anything else you would like to share about any of your answers above? If so, please write it here:

**END OF SURVEY
THANK YOU!**

Field Note Template

Date of interview: _____

Time of interview: _____

Participant ID: _____

School: _____

1. Describe the interview location.
2. Was there any information obtained when the recorder wasn't on?
3. Describe the respondent's appearance.
4. Describe the respondent's disposition.
5. Describe the social interaction between the respondent and interviewer.
6. As the interviewer, how did you feel during the interview?
7. Was there anything that seemed contradictory about the respondent's answers?
8. Was there anything you felt the respondent was not forthcoming about?
9. What are the key takeaways from this interview?
10. What follow-up questions do you have for this respondent?