

## RESEARCH METHOD: 23. THE JOURNALIST



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*We all have a tendency to feel that we know the world and what is true or not, but we may have different opinions and preconceptions that prevent us from really understanding what is going on. This method focusses on getting out of the classroom and talking with people, asking questions or doing longer interviews to gain knowledge, insights and inspiration and get past one's own views*

**Materials needed:** A notebook and a pen, a smart phone with camera and a recorder or recording and photo equipment.

**Time required:** Some time to prepare, maybe as homework and 30–45 minutes to conduct the interviews.

#### How?

**1)** Start of by discussing what you want to learn from the interview and what you are going to do: a) Who do you want to talk to? How many people? Do you want to do a group interview or an interview with two different interviewees:

a child and an adult, a woman and a man, old and young? b) Where do you want to conduct the interview, in the street? In the interviewee's home? During a lunch break? This is important for how formal or unformal the interview will be. c) How much time do you have? Will you do a quick "Vox pop" or a lengthy interview? d) Do you want the interviewee to do something during the interview: make a collage or a drawing, walk you through their workspace, show you how something works, or solve a small assignment? e) Are the questions you want to ask factual and quantitative: How, when, where? Or "softer" and more qualitative: Why?

**2)** Rehearse the interview to see if the questions make sense and prepare notes on paper.

**3)** While interviewing, note down keywords on a note pad, record the interview on a cell phone, but be sure to ask for permission to do so.

**4)** Keep an open and non-judgemental mind while interviewing!