



Perth College

Shout Out

**Oral History
Project**

Name: _____



PC: Shout Out

Over the next three days you will be completing an oral history project where you will interview and record the experiences of PC Old Girls and grandparents.

As part of this project you will be:

- Identifying what types of questions to ask during your interview and how to conduct a meaningful interview.
- Interviewing and sharing morning tea with a PC Old Girl or grandparent to gather information on their life and experiences.
- Using this information to design and create the narrative of your Old Girl / grandparent's life. You will also create a piece of artwork to reflect their experiences. This is where you get to use your creativity!

This activity is designed to teach you important analysis skills that will be useful to you in Year 9. It will also help you build connections with the wider community and promote the idea of flourishing. Flourishing can be described as a combination of 'feeling good and doing good'. We hope this activity will help you to flourish as you embrace your Character Strengths, the Character Strengths of the person you interview, and build connections.

What are Character Strengths?

As you can see in the PC InsideOut Flourishing model on page 1, Character Strengths underpin everything that we do. There are 24 different Character Strengths and we all possess a combination of these.

Some of these Character Strengths will be more dominant or obvious in our personality – we call these our top strengths. Some of these Character Strengths may be less dominant or obvious in our personality – these are our lesser strengths. Over time and with life experience our Character Strengths can change, and it is always possible to develop our lesser strengths.

Discovering your Character Strengths

Use the following link to complete the quiz and discover what your top Character Strengths are. Once you are finished you should write your top five Character Strengths in the space below.



<http://www.viacharacter.org/www/Character-Strengths-Survey>

My Top 5 Character Strengths

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Hint!

When writing about your grandparent / Old Girl it would be a great idea to identify what Character Strengths they have used during their experiences.

Preparing for your interview

Interview Questions

The themes of your interview are:

- The proudest moment of your life.
- A challenge you faced whilst you were at school and how you overcame this.
- Advice you would give to someone studying at Perth College.

When creating your interview questions you want to avoid asking questions that can be answered with a simple 'yes' or 'no'. Instead try to design questions that are a mixture of:

- **Open-ended questions** – These are questions that are short and have many possible answers. E.g. instead of asking, 'Did you graduate Year 12 at Perth College?', you could ask, 'Describe your final years of schooling'.
- **Specific questions** – these can be used to add detail to your notes and create a framework to your story.
- **Meaning-seeking questions** – These are questions that are good to ask later in the interview. They might help you to connect your interviewees Character Strengths to their experiences or learn about how they felt about different situations. E.g. 'That sounds like you really enjoyed the friendships you made, how did you manage to keep in touch after school?'



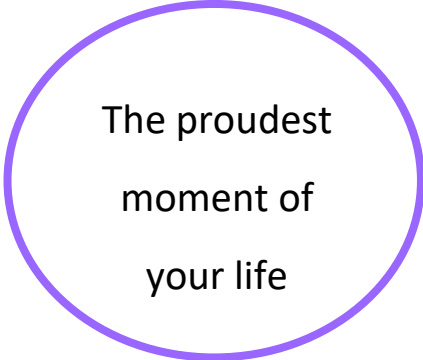
- **Elaboration and clarification** - These can help you to add more detail when gathering information and will ensure that you accurately record the thoughts and feelings of your interviewee. Consider asking, 'Can you tell me more about that?' or 'Is there anything else you would like to add?', 'That sounds so interesting, what happened next?'

Hint!

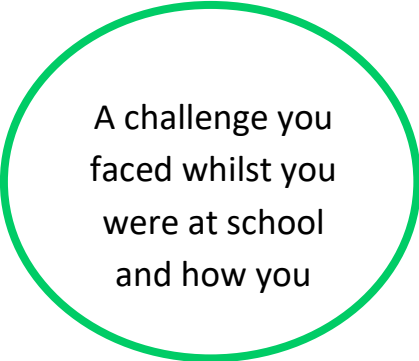
Have a list of questions on paper—but also try to memorise these and be open to adding more questions along the way, so that you can have the most natural conversation possible. Don't be afraid to go off script if the conversation is flowing.



Brainstorm your interview questions



The proudest
moment of
your life



A challenge you
faced whilst you
were at school
and how you



Advice you would
give to someone
studying at Perth
College

How to record your interview

You will need to take effective notes during your interview. These notes need to be detailed enough that you can re-write the story of your Old Girl / grandparent after the interview.

It would be a good idea to divide the questions between the members of your group, so that each person has a clear role and knows what to focus on. If your interviewee is talking too fast don't be afraid to ask them to slow down a little so you can take notes.

Your notes should be written in dot points, and there is space later in this booklet, for you to record your interview. If you think of a new question during the interview, it is a good idea to write down what this question was so that their response will make more sense after the interview.

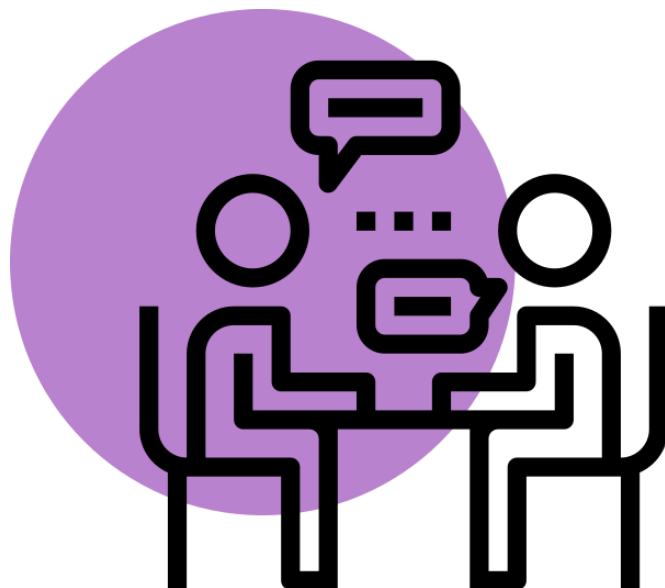


Hint!

If you are interviewing a much older person, remember you may need to talk loudly so that they can hear you properly.

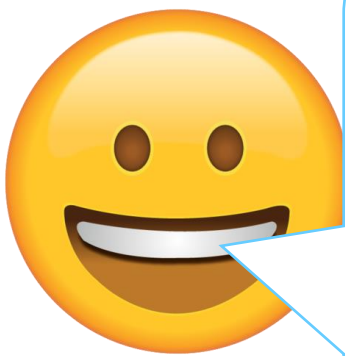
Interview Etiquette

- **Introduction** - Remember to introduce yourself at the start of the interview. You should explain the themes of the interview and what you will be using the information for. Make sure the interviewee is comfortable with these topics before you begin.
- **Active listening** – An interview is a two-way street. You need to be actively listening to what the interviewee is telling you, not just writing everything down. Listening carefully and making eye contact during the interview tells the person that you are interested and value what they are sharing with you. It also may help you to think of extra questions to ask along the way.
- **Be respectful** – Everyone has different life experiences and some of your questions may inadvertently bring up different emotions for your interviewee. If they become upset it is ok to stop the interview if they want to, or to give them some time to collect their thoughts. If you feel that you need some help at any stage of your interview, there will be lots of PC staff to assist.
- **Wrapping up** – PC Staff will let you know when there are 10 minutes left of your interview. If you have lots of questions still to ask, it would be a good idea to pick the most important ones to ask at this point. Be sure to thank your interviewee at the end of the interview.



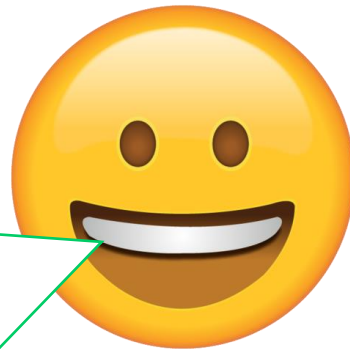
Interview practice

Now it's time to put your interview skills into practice! In pairs, practise asking each other the following questions and taking notes on each other's responses. Remember to consider your interview etiquette.

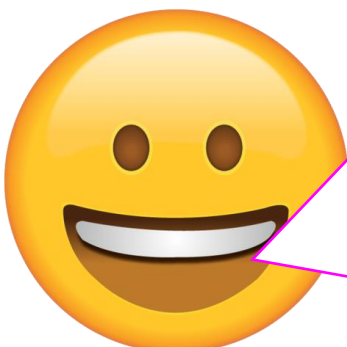


How did you feel on your first day at Perth College?

If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?



What advice would you give a new Year 7 starting at Perth College in 2019?



Drafting your narrative

Your next task is to transform your interview notes into a snapshot of your interviewees' experiences.

The structure of your response should be:

1. An **introduction** to your interviewee. This should include:

- *Their name*
- *Relation to PC if they have one*
- *Years they attended PC (if relevant)*
- *Time period in which they grew up*
- *The location in which they grew up and where they live now*

2. A description of the **proudest moment** of their life.

3. A description of a **challenge they faced** whilst they were at school and how they overcame this.

4. Advice they would give to someone studying at Perth College.

5. A concluding statement about the top **Character Strengths** you spotted in your interviewee.

Space to plan your artwork

Presenting your narrative

Your final narrative should be typed and carefully proofread by more than one member of your group.

It would be a maximum of three pages, and no shorter than one page.

Your artwork can be created in any format (digital, drawing, collage or sculpture). If it is not digital you will need to take a photograph or scan your creation.

Your group will be sharing your narrative with the rest of your year group (it is a good idea to allocate roles for your presentation).

A copy of your narrative and artwork will be sent to your interviewee.

Reflecting on the Shout Out Project

What was your favourite part of the Shout Out Project?

How well do you think you worked as a group on the project?

What lessons did you learn from your interviewee?

What would you change about the project if you were to complete it again?