

Interview Lesson

Digital Stories of Our Heroes

Reviewing the Interviewer's Role

Have students explore the interviewer's role by watching a televised interview (e.g., Oprah or Barbara Walters) then lead a class discussion by asking the following questions:

- What types of questions did the interviewer ask?
- How did the interviewer get the subject to tell her/his story?
- What might an interviewer do to keep his or her subject on track?
- What kinds of things do you think an interviewer should avoid doing?

Developing Interview Skills

Have the students review the interviewing strategies document. Then direct them to interview one another about their own remembrances of September 11, 2001, or another topic experienced by the students collectively, using what they learned from the strategies document and the televised interview. To help them prepare, complete the following as a class or in groups:

- Develop a list of questions that could be used in any interview about an individual's impressions of a particular event, making sure there are no questions that can be answered with a simple, "Yes," or "No."
- Develop strategies to get the individual to tell her/his story.

After the interviews have been conducted, lead a class discussion to determine the following:

- Which questions led to really good (i.e., informative and engaging) responses?
- Which strategies worked and which didn't?
- How could the interview have been better?
- How would the interview preparation been different if the subject had been a police officer or firefighter who was at ground zero on September 11?