

Sixth Grade, Session 15

Interview an Adult

Interview an adult you know about what it was like when they were your age.

The purpose of the assignment is to ask an adult what it was like for them growing up and specifically what it was like when they were your age. The adult can be anyone you choose, a parent, grandparent, adult uncle or aunt, teacher, coach—whoever you think would be a good fit. Look for any similarities to and differences from your experience.

Interview directions:

In advance of the interview, choose 10 questions below that you are most interested in asking. You can ask more, but the assignment only requires that you ask 10. If they say something really interesting, feel free to ask follow-up questions like, “*Can you tell me more about that?*” or “*What did you think you learned about yourself or other people from that experience?*”

After you choose your person, ask when is a good day and time to meet. The day before your interview, confirm the interview by reminding the adult of your appointment in writing. It can be a note you write, or you can use text or email. It can look something like this:

Dear Aunt Jackie, Thanks for agreeing to let me interview you for my Owning Up class.

We are scheduled to talk tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in the kitchen. I am really looking forward to it and thank you for your time.

When it's interview time, please bring the following:

- If you are meeting in person, two glasses of water; one for you and one for the interviewee
- The interview questions
- A notebook where you can write extra comments
- If you have one, a phone to record the conversation for further note-taking

For the interview:

- Find a comfortable place to talk where you won't be interrupted.
- Sit down and take a breath to focus.
- Thank the adult for agreeing to be interviewed.
- If you do want to record the conversation, ask your interviewee if that's okay with them.
- After you have finished, thank your interviewee for the time and attention.

Ask your questions!

Remember, in *Owning Up* listening is defined as being prepared to be changed by what you hear, so pay attention to the things the person says that surprise you or you can apply to your own life.

Questions

- What was your favorite thing to do after school?
- Who was your best or worst teacher/coach? What did you learn from them?
- How do you think the experiences with that person impact you today?
- What were you good at when you were my age?
- Did you have a nickname? Did you like it? Who gave it to you?
- Who was the person you trusted most when you were my age? Why?
- Did people ever tease you? Do you remember what it was about and how you handled it?
- Was there anything about your life at school or in your neighborhood that you didn't tell your parents but you wished they knew?
- Did your parents like your friends?
- What was your room like? Did you decorate it? How?
- Did people ever tease you? Do you remember what it was about and how you handled it?
- What did you worry about when you were my age?
- Who was someone you admired when you were my age? Why?
- Did you have a celebrity crush?
- How did you get to school?
- Did you like going to school? Why or why not?
- What kind of music did you listen to?
- Describe a close friend you had. Did you ever get into conflicts with that friend?
- Where did you eat lunch? What did you eat for lunch? What was your favorite and least favorite thing to eat?
- Did you have pets?
- Was there anyone you really didn't like or didn't get along with?
- What did you wear to school? Did you have a favorite thing to wear?
- What was your favorite or least favorite subject? Why?
- What was your least favorite house chore?
- What did you do for fun?