

Five Tips for Great Interviews In the Classroom

- Keep in mind the depth of wisdom and experience that teachers bring to the classroom. Teachers spend years training to be in the classroom. Be respectful of teachers as experts.
- Before you visit a classroom, find out the objective of the lesson you will be observing. Ask ahead of time for a copy of the lesson plan. If you request one at the last minute you might end up trying to decipher a teacher's shorthand.
- Be sure the teacher and any other educators involved in the story know the focus of your article. They can surprise you with information you did not think to ask.
- If the teacher uses too much jargon during your interview, ask them to repeat what they are saying in a way that they might say it to a parent or to a non-teacher friend.
- Follow up with the teacher by asking whether what you observed was typical of his or her classroom. Did the lesson go as planned? What was normal and what was unusual?

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