

Interview Guide

Interview with a Religious Specialists about Meaning and Belonging

ASSIGNMENT

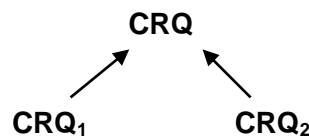
- At least by the end of Week 10, interview a religious specialist – e.g., priest, rabbi, minister, imam, etc. – one whom you do not know personally (or did not know at the start of the semester). This specialist will be from a religious tradition other than your own:
- The topic of the interview will be the sense of personal meaning that this specialist gets from leading her or his religious group, and the reasons that this individual finds this particular group to be a congenial religious home. Please use the concepts you have learned during the first part of this course to deepen your conversation.
- Prepare an interview protocol that lets you uncover the information you seek.
 - A general guide to “How to Construct an Interview Protocol” is posted at the course website.
- Write a short (4-page; 1000 word) report of your interview, using concepts learned in this class to help your readers understand what you have learned. This report is due at the time listed on the course schedule.
- Be ready to present a clear, concise 3-minute summary of your interview to the class. I shall call on some class members to present their observations.

CONSTRUCTING YOUR INTERVIEW

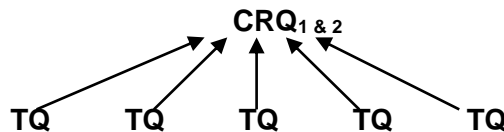
Your interview should focus on two topics:

1. **The sense of personal meaning that this specialist gets from leading her or his religious group.**
2. **The reasons that this individual finds this particular group to be a congenial religious home.**

Use the “How to Construct an Interview Protocol” handout (available at the course website). Treat these as two aspects of a Central Research Question (CRQ): **“What sense of personal meaning and belonging does my interviewee gain from her or his role as a religious specialist with her or his group?”**



Your course reading should give you some guidance about the kinds of things that might make your specialist’s religious participation personally meaningful and her or his group the best (current) place on which to focus that participation. Treat these things as the Theory-Based Questions (TQ) for CRQ₁ and CRQ₂.



Follow Step 2 of the handout to construct a set of actual interview questions. Shape these into a smooth-flowing conversation. Practice this conversation before you undertake your interview.

WRITING UP YOUR INTERVIEW

Write up your interview, distilling the information you have collected into a clear paper that present’s your interviewee’s point-of-view on the two focusing topics, above. Consult the grading rubric for Religious Specialist Interviews (at the website) to get a sense of what constitutes a good paper.