The interview

Part 1: Before the interview

- Assumptions, biases
  - Are we doing this ethically? Are we influencing their answers by how we ask the question?
  - Are we changing the nature of the thing we are asking about? Do we know the person?
  - Issues of inclusion/exclusion: who do we choose to interview, who do we not, and why?
    - Think about the power dynamic of interviewer/interviewee
      - An interview between peers? An interview between student to adult? Location? Setup?
  - Can an interview be a viable means of understanding internal/hidden thoughts/behavior/mindset (such as reading, or emotional state, etc.)

- Recording/equipment
  - How to set up your interview:
    - How to introduce your interview, explanation, provide a brief context
    - How to articulate what we are interested in without biasing your subjects
  - How to record?
    - Using an iPhone as recording
      - In-person? Over video? Over phone?
      - Nonverbal communication involved (ex. nodding, showing interest, boredom, etc.)
    - Talking about vs. writing down – how does the method of recording change the nature of your subject’s response?
    - Group “public” responses vs. private responses from your interview subjects

- Have a list of questions, what information you need to get out of the interview
- Think through what is a manageable, usable amount of data from the interview (ex: 2 hours? 20 hours?)

Part 2: During the interview

- Approach/rapport
  - Where? [ex: a workplace, neutral environment etc.]
  - What is the interview style like?
    - Off the record, vs. on the record answers
  - The importance of using silence; when to pause, when to let your interview subject think

- Language/defining terms
  - Not a one-way mirror, think of the interview as a mutual process
    - Interview as process of meaning-making
    - Checking in process, triangulate answers to make sure there is mutual understanding
Part 3: After the interview
  o Reflection/What the interview does to the interviewer
  o Iterative, refine, refine
  o Ethics of reporting – what do we share/not share (anonymity, controversial findings)