

The Aviation Choice Project

Interview a Pilot

For your midterm grade in AHL, you must conduct an interview with a licensed pilot. You may interview family members, friends, relatives, or one of our pilots here at WMAA. Please follow the outline below by asking the following questions and responding to the interview in a written reflection.

Pilots at WMAA: Mr. Pavey, Mr. Sebuck, Mr. VanderLugt, Mr. Bakker

Before the interview: Remember that you are responsible for contacting the pilot, scheduling the interview, determining the time and place, and arriving on time. Be professional and be ladies and gentlemen. Thank the pilot for his/her time and answers and don't forget a handshake both before AND after the interview.

During the interview: Please ask the following questions during the interview. (Tip: Record the interview on your phone or another electronic device so you can go back and listen to their answers. You will need to turn in detailed notes of the interview.)

- Tell about a time or experience which made you realize you wanted to fly.
- Why did you decide to pursue aviation? If you could go back, would you do it again?
- Where did you get started with ground and flight school? What were the steps you took to becoming a licensed pilot?
- Once you were a licensed pilot, describe what experiences/jobs/opportunities you've had to fly. How long have you been flying?
- Tell about the single most memorable experience you've had in the air, whether it's a story that's scary, funny, or exhilarating.
- Would you encourage someone to pursue a career in the aviation industry? Why or why not?
- What would be your best piece advice to a young person who is interested in pursuing aviation?
- Come up with three original questions of your own to ask during the interview. Consider some ideas ahead of time, but you may come up with questions on the spot. As you find out a little bit more about the person from the questions above, you may be prompted with a question of your own.

After the interview: Type up a transcript of the interview. This should include the questions you asked, and detailed notes below of the pilot's answers. The transcript does not need to be word-for-word, but should be detailed enough that I have a clear sense of what was asked and answered. Bullet points are okay.

Include a typed written reflection with the transcript. This should be two to three paragraphs in length and written in complete sentences. Answer the following questions:

- Who did you interview and how did you get in touch with him/her? Describe briefly the process of contacting this person and where and when you conducted the interview.
- Describe in detail the most interesting thing you learned about aviation and being an aviator by talking with this pilot.
- After the interview, are you inspired to possibly consider aviation as future career choice? Why or why not?
- Describe what new perspective of aviation this interview gave you. What did it make you think about in regards to aviation that you haven't thought about before?