



Interview a Climate Scientist

When educating others about climate change and its solutions, it is important to be able to **communicate clearly** and to arouse listeners' **curiosity**. This activity is a fun way for your students to practise their public speaking and communication skills, while they share answers to their burning questions about climate change and its solutions.

Students are asked to work in pairs to conduct an interview about climate change. One student will be the **journalist** who will pose questions relating to climate change and the other will be the **climate scientist** who will answer them. Each interview should last approximately 10 minutes.

Instructions

We recommend randomly assigning half the class to be journalists and the other half to be climate scientists. Students can either select their partner or, to avoid anyone feeling excluded, you could create the teams yourself.

Working together:

Both students are tasked with coming up with the questions and researching answers to the journalists' questions. This will allow them both to practise using their research skills. Both students should also be encouraged to rehearse their interview together before the final interview.

Journalist:

The journalist is tasked with posing questions to the climate scientist. 'Journalists' should also think of 1-2 follow-up questions. These questions are likely to vary greatly. They are designed to promote curiosity about climate science.

Climate Scientist:

The climate scientist is tasked with answering the journalist's questions during the interview in a clear and concise manner. Their role is to help educate others about climate science.

Interview:

Students should be offered the choice of either filming their interview or 'performing' it before the class. We recommend especially promoting the second option, as some students may not have access to a video recording device.



Class:

Whilst watching the interviews, we recommend having the rest of the class write down one interesting fact they learned for each interview to ensure engagement and participation.

Reliable Sources:

It is critical that the information students present be both accurate and reliable. We recommend reviewing what it means for a source to be accurate and reliable and also provide some examples such as those listed below:

- <https://www.ipcc.ch/>
- <https://unfccc.int/>
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Finally, we also recommend encouraging your students to unleash their creativity for this activity. Students could dress up according to their notion of what journalists/climate scientists look like, film themselves in an office setting, on stage, or outside. They could even make a few jokes during their interview to keep their audience engaged!

The activity sheet also provides some tips and tricks for conducting a good interview and for communicating effectively.



We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to schools@climatescience.org and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)