

### **Information Literacy Tip – Interview Yourself About Your Paper**

Interviewing yourself is a silly but effective way to clarify your thinking and plans for your research paper. Pretend that your interviewer knows nothing about you or your paper. If possible, get a friend to ask the questions. Tape record your answers, or stop to write down those brilliant ideas you'll get about how to improve your paper. Give yourself a time limit, such as half-hour.

Find a comfortable place where you can talk to yourself, pretend that you are facing your imaginary interviewer, and see if you can answer these questions:

What is the topic of your paper? What is it about?

Why did you choose this topic?

What argument do you present? Or what question are you answering?

Did other people study this? What did they find out? Can you tell me some of the books and articles and facts?

Is there another side to this? What would someone say who disagrees with you? Can you tell me some of the books and articles and facts?

How will you know that you are done? How will you know that you have made an effective and complete argument, or answered the question completely?

*(The idea for this tip came from the book Mind Performance Hacks by Ron Hale-Evans.)*