Techniques in Interviewing for Law Enforcement and Corrections Personnel

A Programmed Text SECOND PRINTING

ROBERT J. WICKS

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Learning Center Coordinator Coastal Carolina Community College Jacksonville, North Carolina

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For Michaele and Ila Dawn

TO THE STUDENT

 \mathbf{Y} OU ARE ABOUT to be introduced to a textbook quite different from the traditional kind. It is called a *programmed textbook*. If you follow the instructions contained herein, you should find this new learning experience to be very gratifying and rewarding.

Your programmed textbook contains the same kind of material that you would expect to find in an ordinary text. The material, however, has been broken down into small, numbered statements or *frames*. These frames are arranged in a logical, stepby-step pattern, beginning with the simple concepts and gradually progressing to the complex ones.

Each frame will teach you a certain amount of information and will then allow you to fill in the blanks that are provided with the information that you have just learned. You may write your answers in the blanks provided in the book or on a separate sheet of paper. The important thing here is that you do *write down* your answers. Before attempting to write your responses, however, you should read the *entire* frame. Then after you have written down your answer, you may compare it with the correct response appearing in the right-hand column, directly across from each frame. A correct response will send you on to the next frame. If your response is incorrect, you should reread and study the frame until you have mastered it. It is important that you understand each principle before continuing on.

A word of caution: you should at no time look at the responses that appear in the textbook before you have arrived at your own response. An answer shield has been provided in the back of this textbook for your convenience. Therefore, before beginning the first chapter, go to the rear of this book and remove the section of paper marked *Answer Shield* by tearing it out along the perforated line. You are to cover the answer column on each page with the answer shield before starting to read any of the

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Techniques in Interviewing

frames. As you finish each frame you should slide the answer shield down the page to reveal each book response.

Your programmed textbook is designed to allow you to work at your own rate of speed. As you work through the program, you will find that important facts are constantly reviewed to ensure that you remember them.

When you are ready to begin, turn to Frame 1, cover the answer column with your answer shield, and commence work. Chapter 1 has been made somewhat basic so you can familiarize yourself with this type of text before going on to the more detailed material.

> ROBERT J. WICKS Ernest H. Josephs, Jr.

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TECHNIQUES IN INTERVIEWING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS PERSONNEL

INTERVIEWING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

1

	1
1. Interviewing is a basic type of COM-	(No response
MUNICATION in which one person INTER-	required.)
ACTS with another person or persons.	
2. A basic type of in which one	communication
person (inter) with another person	interacts
or persons is called an INTERVIEW.	
2 Interviewing techniques are utilized in	
3. Interviewing techniques are utilized in numerous fields. They are used in government,	
industry, and education, to name but a few	
areas. People working in these fields employ	
for the purpose of securing certain	interviewing
INFORMATION.	
4. In industry, a firm interviews a job appli-	(No response
cant to determine if he is qualified for a	required.)
particular position.	

3

5. In government, however, a person, his friends, and neighbors may be(ed) to determine if the individual in question should be granted a security clearance.	interviewed
6. Interviewing is used in education for ad- missions purposes, placement, and to bring to light any problem areas that the student or prospective student may have.	(No response required.)
7. You can now see that interviewing has a multipurpose function and is used in numerous fields to gather certain kinds of (infor)	information
8. Taking into consideration what interviewing is and its general purpose, it can be defined as a basic type of in which one per- son with another person or persons for the purpose of securing certain	communication interacts information
9. For the remainder of this chapter we will concentrate on the aspects of interviewing as they pertain to law enforcement.	(No response required.)

10. As a law enforcement or corrections officer, you will often be required to gather	information
11. A useful method for gathering and as- similating information is	interviewing
12. In pursuit of this goal you can utilize inter- viewing techniques in many instances. Let us	(No response required.)
now look at the ways in which interviewing will be beneficial to you on the job.	
13. You may utilize techniques when aiding a subordinate with a problem that he may be encountering on the job.	interviewing
14. By your subordinates from time to time you will stay abreast of the problems that they are having. Otherwise, you	interviewing
will often be unaware of their and will not be able to aid them.	problems
15. Interviewing techniques will also be in- strumental to you in ascertaining the troubles a parolee is having soon after his release from prison.	(No response required.)

16. If you are to be successful in helping him resolve his problems you must keep the lines of communication open. Thus, in determining the problems of a parolee soon after his release from, your knowledge of will be very helpful.	prison/ interviewing
17. You may also draw upon your interview- ing abilities if and when you are on an in- vestigation which requires that a number of witnesses be seen so that what they observed can be recorded.	(No response required.)
18. Anytime you are conducting an where there are (wit), you must interview them in order to determine what they saw or heard.	investigation witnesses
19. You may have further use of your knowl- edge of interviewing when speaking with an individual just apprehended at the scene of a crime.	(No response required.)

20. While talking to an individual who has just been at the of a , you are interviewing him in an effort to determine what happened, what part he had in the crime, and if other people were involved.	apprehended/ scene crime
21. You will also have need of interviewing techniques when you first arrive at the scene of an accident.	(No response required.)
22. When you arrive at the of an, you will probably be several persons in order to determine what happened, who was at fault, how, when, and where the accident happened, and if there were any witnesses.	scene accident/ interviewing
 23. Let us quickly review now the situations that were just discussed where you, as an officer, could apply your interviewing skills. a. When aiding a with a problem that he may have encountered on the job. 	subordinate

b. In trying to ascertain what problems a	
is having soon after his release	parolee
from	prison
c. On an which requires that a	investigation
number of be seen so what they	witnesses
observed can be recorded.	
d. In speaking to an individual just appre-	
hended at the of a	scene/
e. When arriving at the of an	crime scene
······································	accident
,	accident
niques in many instances while on the job. Therefore, in the situations previously dis- cussed, where you might be called upon to conduct a formal or (in) interview, it would be beneficial if you were familiar with techniques in	informal interviewing
25. So, with the above thought in mind, this text was designed to introduce you to a number of basic interviewing principles which can be applied by you while on duty.	(No response required.)

No response
equired.)
No response
equired.)

TEST ON CHAPTER 1

10	Techniques in Interviewing
a	
b	
c	
d	
e	

INITIAL INTERVIEW

1. How you handle the initial interview can be extremely important. It may even determine whether the session you are involved in will be successful or whether it will turn out to be a failure.	(No response required.)
 Since your manner of conducting the initial interview may largely determine your success or with the interviewee, it is necessary that you understand its importance. The initial interview is important for two prime reasons that we shall now explore. 	failure (No response required.)
4. The first reason, quite simply, is that as a law enforcement officer you often have only one opportunity to interview someone. When you only have to interview an individual it is essential then that you obtain as much INFORMATION as pos- sible from him.	one/ opportunity

5. As an illustration of a "one-time" interview situation, consider the witness to a crime who goes into hiding after the initial interview. He may have into because he believed that he incriminated himself by making a particular statement, or possibly because he was threatened by parties involved in the crime.	gone/ hiding
6. Regardless of the witness's reason for dis- appearing after the initial interview, the fact that such a possibility exists makes it necessary for you to obtain as much from him as possible.	information
7. Therefore, how well you interview an in- dividual on the first meeting may well deter- mine the outcome of a particular case.	(No response required.)
8. In the previous illustration, if the interview had been carefully conducted, enough clues might have been noted to continue the case without further help from the	witness

Initial Interview

9. Not only may a successful initial interview make it possible for you to continue the case if the witness goes into hiding, but it may also be possible for you to determine, from the clues that you gathered, where the witness could be if his testimony is later required.	hiding
10. Thus, the interview is ex- tremely important because you often have only chance to speak to an individual. Thus, how you the opening session is quite vital and should be done with extreme care.	initial one conduct, handle
11. The second reason is that even if you see the person more than once, it is important that you use the initial interview to SET the STAGE for subsequent meetings. By making a GOOD IMPRESSION on the interviewee in the first session, you will be(ing) the for subsequent meetings.	setting stage

|

12. If, for example, you are required to interview a parolee or probationee, the individual in this situation (is/is not) going to be particularly interested in what kind of person you are and accordingly (will/will not) observe you closely during your initial encounter with him.	is will
13. If you do not feel well or, for some other reason, do not make the impression that you need to make on the persons that you interview, you may never be able to overcome what harm you incurred on these first meetings. First (im) indeed are lasting!	impressions
14. As a result, the initial interview requires your particular attention if you expect to be successful as an interviewer.	(No response required.)
15. Before continuing, let's review the cir- cumstances that make the initial interview important.	(No response required.)

Initial Interview

16. A witness to a crime may, after the initial interview, into, possibly because he feels that he made a statement incriminating himself or because he was threatened.	go/ hiding
17. If you conduct the initial interview care- fully, the disappearance of the witness may not jeopardize the outcome of the case. You may well have gathered enough to con- tinue the case or to determine where the wit- ness is hiding.	information
18. Thus, the initial interview is extremely important because you may only have opportunity to speak with the individual.	one
19. If you have more than one session with the individual, the initial interview is still just as important because you will be setting the stage for future sessions by making a on him.	good impression