

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# You Write It

## Turning an Interview Into an Article

**Directions:** Follow the steps below to turn our interview with Bella Rossborough into an article.

**1** The headline "How I Got Plastic Bags Banned" gives you a clue about the central idea of the interview and what the central idea of your article should be. **Write the central idea, in your own words, as a complete sentence.**

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**2** Rewrite each question-and-answer pair on the lines below. Write from the third-person point of view (using *he*, *she*, or *they* to refer to people—never *I* or *we*). Paraphrase—that is, rewrite in your own words—what Bella says. We did the first pair for you.

**Q-and-A No. 1:**

*Plastic bags are harmful because after they are thrown away, they can escape into our environment and cause problems. The bags can end up in our oceans where they can hurt animals by wrapping around the animals' mouths or bodies and making it hard for them to breathe or move. An animal can also mistake a plastic bag for food and eat it, which can make the animal sick.*

**Q-and-A No. 2:**

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**Q-and-A No. 3:**

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**Q-and-A No. 4:**

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**Q-and-A No. 5:**

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**Q-and-A No. 6:**

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**3** Choose two sentences that Bella said in the interview to use as direct quotes in your article.  
A direct quote is another person's exact words.

*When you include direct quotes in your article, you must put them in quotation marks, and you must make clear who is saying them. Here are two examples of how to do that:*

1. "I was going to mail it to the Board of Selectmen—a group of officials who make decisions about how our town is run," explains Bella. "But my teacher encouraged me to present my ideas in person."
2. Bella says, "You don't have to look very hard to find a plastic bag blowing around on the ground, stuck in a tree, or floating in the water."

**Direct Quote 1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Direct Quote 2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Now it's time to put it all together. Write your three-paragraph article on a separate sheet of paper or type it up, following the guidelines below.

**Opening Paragraph:**

- Your first sentence should be a hook—that is, it should grab the reader's attention. One option is to state something that is surprising, interesting, or moving. What detail did you find most interesting from the interview?
- Let readers know what the article is going to be about. In other words, state the central idea of the article.

**Body Paragraph:**

- Explain to your readers why plastic bags are a problem and how Bella was able to get them banned in her town, using information from the six question-and-answer pairs you summarized in Step 2.
- Summarize the most important ideas presented in the interview. Each idea you include should support the central idea that you wrote in Step 1.
- Don't forget to include the direct quotes you chose in Step 3.

**Conclusion:**

- Wrap it all up. End your article with a strong sentence that will give your readers something to think about. One option is to end with a quote. Another is to refer to your hook from the opening paragraph.

**WRITING TIPS!**

- Use transition words and phrases so your ideas flow smoothly from one to the next.
- Vary the lengths and structures of your sentences to keep your writing lively.
- Read your first draft carefully. Is there anything you could express more clearly or in a more interesting way? Incorporate any changes into your second draft. Proofread your second draft, checking for mistakes in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.