

Name: _____ Date: _____

You Write It

Turning an Interview Into an Article

Directions: Follow the steps below to turn our interview with Virgil Smith into an article.

1 The headline "This Texas Hero Saved 17 Lives" 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.**

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 Virgil says. We did the first pair for you.

Q-and-A No. 1:

Virgil Smith was at home with his family in Dickinson, Texas, when Hurricane Harvey hit.

Q-and-A No. 2:

Q-and-A No. 3:

Q-and-A No. 4:

Q-and-A Nos. 5 and 6:

Q-and-A No. 7:

Q-and-A No. 8:

Q-and-A No. 9:

3 Choose two things that Virgil 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. "We lost everything," explains Virgil. "We had to live in a hotel for six months."
2. Virgil says, "Hurricane Harvey showed me that I want to keep helping people."

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 how Virgil helped people during Hurricane Harvey, using information from the nine 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.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

You Write It Contest

Read our interview with Virgil Smith. Choose a central idea and write a three-paragraph article about Virgil in your own words. Be sure to use quotes from our interview.

Five winners will each get a \$25 Visa gift card.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clear central idea and supporting evidence
- ⇒ use of quotations
- ⇒ organization
- ⇒ grammar

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name : _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this sheet with your typed short story and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com

Or mail to: You Write It Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 15, 2018!