GROUNDSPATROL
Pre-Interview Guide
Or: "How Do Interview Good?"

Get Excited!

If you're reading this, it means you're about to be a guest on Grounds Patrol, a podcast dedicated to informing and inspiring Newgrounds creators. Thanks for being up for doing this cool thing! If you're nervous, don't be. The purpose of this little guide is to make you feel as prepared as possible and alleviate any concerns you might have.

First, the Technical Stuff

Grounds Patrol usually records on Discord. If you're unfamiliar with Discord, or if you're located in an area where Discord is blocked, let us know immediately and we'll figure something out. We've done Skype interviews before as well.

Your Mic Setup

As far as your mic setup goes, know that it doesn't have to be perfect. As a guest, what you have to say is more important than the quality of your audio!

What's important about your setup is that:

- You're able to be close to the mic in as quiet a space as possible.

- You're in a place with a decent internet connection. (The occasional Discord connection issue isn't terrible, but a constantly poor connection makes the conversation… very… tedious………..)

- You'll be able to hear everyone else's voices **through headphones**. Your microphone should only be picking up your own voice. If it picks up Will's voice or anyone else's, the time it takes to edit the episode goes through the roof! If you're

not sure about this, please do a little test at some point before the recording day to make sure everything's good.

- ○ If other people are sitting next to you and sharing the mic, this gets tricky. For best results see if you can get everyone listening on headphones with a splitter. If that's not possible, let us know and we can work something out.

Recording the Interview

We record the interview two ways:

- A **Discord Bot** records the conversation.

  - ○ Pro: Reliable, guests don't need to do any extra work.

  - ○ Con: Quality is only as good as the Discord connection, not great.

- If possible, we also **both record our tracks separately** and you send your side to us at the end.

  - ○ Pro: Your sound quality is as good as your mic!

  - ○ Con: You have to basically be your own audio engineer, figure out your setup, export the file and send it to us.

A couple notes:

- If you don't have a good mic, that's fine! That's what the Discord bot is for.

- **If you're opting to record your end separately, you might want to make sure your setup is capable of recording for long periods of time. Run your recording software for an hour or so and see if it crashes - better to find out early than during the interview itself.**

- If you're not able to use Discord for some reason, you'll have to record your side separately - let us know if that's the case.

The Interview Itself

First, please **try to be basically sitting down and ready to go about fifteen minutes before the start time.** If you feel like you might need to test your mic or recording equipment, get that out of the way beforehand if possible. That way we can start on time (especially important for shows with multiple guests!) and have as much time for the interview as possible.

(By the way, I hate the term "interview" - sounds like you're applying for a job. Think of it more like a conversation, or a chat, or just a general goof sesh.)

Here's a couple of things you should know about how the talk itself is gonna go:

- We're not recording the podcast intro, outro, ads or anything else. Just the interview. All the podcast structure and formatting is added in later.

- We do edit the recording for pace and conciseness and stuff. If you realize later that you said something you didn't mean to, let us know and we'll remove it.

- The conversation doesn't ever have to be about anything in particular. It doesn't have to stick to a set of prescribed conversation points, it doesn't have to be serious, it definitely doesn't have to be about Newgrounds. As long as you're passionate about it, we can talk about it. We could literally talk about eggplants for an hour and I'd consider it a great episode.

- At the end you'll have the chance to plug your projects, social media, and revenue streams like Patreon or Kofi. There's no pressure to do this, but if you do have things you want people to support, make sure you know how to tell people to find them. *(Nothing is worse for your brand than the sound of you fishing for URL's you don't remember lol)*

Roundtables

Roundtable episodes usually involve three guests who share common interests. If you're participating in one, here are a few extra things to know:

Have a Quick Way to Introduce Yourself

These will play at the beginning of the episode and get listeners acquainted with the sound of your voice - that way, with four people talking, nobody will get lost wondering who's who.

You can figure out a quick way to answer the basic question of "who are you and what will people know you for?" so when it's your turn you can just rattle it off easily.

Here are some examples:

- My name is Will Kommor, and I'm the host of Grounds Patrol.
- Hi, I'm Frank, I'm a rapper and an EDM producer.
- I'm Amanda and I'm a voice actress!

Enjoy the Community

Roundtables are fun because you get to hear other artists' takes on something you're passionate about, how you differ and how you're alike. It can understandably get hectic when everyone's talking together - that's okay! Try to stay aware of when you're rambling and when you've gone a while without talking, and over time we'll find a natural rhythm where everyone's engaging and talking together.

Conclusion

I hope this guide was helpful and not stressful! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out and ask. This process is designed to be flexible, low-key and fun. And remember, what you say is only gonna be immortalized on the internet forever!

(Just kidding.)