

The interview

The interview assignment took me a little by surprise when I got it, but it turned out to be easier than I expected. I didn't do interviews for the final work, so I decided to apply to be a student of another educational program. Fortunately for me, I live in a dormitory with a sophomore in the history department, so the choice immediately fell on her. I see her every day, we have close friendly relations, so she did not refuse me. It didn't take long to arrange the interview: we just talked in our spare time in our room. However, I prepared for the interview in advance. I made a list of questions based on the topic "Why do you want to study at the HSE?" and asked you to give me some time.

Regarding the interview itself. I can classify my interview as a structured interview, since I had a list of questions prepared in advance and I just asked them in a row, expecting direct and clear answers to them. It cannot be said that the atmosphere was official. Rather, we had fun doing it. We also remembered that that year I participated in an interview for her sociology project. All this gave the interview an informal look. It's also quite a face-to-face interview, it was so face-to-face that we sat literally 30-50 centimeters apart while she painted her eyebrows. Judging by her body language, she was relaxed, open and more concerned about her eyebrow shape.

Returning to the topic of questions, I decided not to conduct a large interview and limited myself to only 4 questions. Here, rather, I was faced with a situation similar to the one described in the book by Cecile and Iver Neumann. We have already talked about this topic many times outside of interviews, so it was undoubtedly difficult to get something new. In order not to repeat myself, I had to think hard about the questions. However, the answers also pleasantly surprised me. Asking the question "*Do you want to finish your studies at the HSE?*", I got the answer "*Yes, I do*" instead of the usual desire to drop out. However, the answer was supplemented by the fact that the workload at the faculty is very heavy, which does not leave the thought of leaving the university. As another of my difficulties in conducting an interview, I would single out my indecision in communication. Even after a year and a half of living together, I'm still embarrassed to ask and talk about something. I personally feel little intimacy with people and prefer to listen rather than participate in a dialogue. If in the future I have to work with people and interview, I will have to re-educate myself and learn to get along with different people, creating a comfortable atmosphere.

Generally, when I conducted this interview, I had a feeling of gaiety and unreality of what was happening, as if it was all a game. Probably, this is part of the training: in order to understand how scientists conduct real interviews and research, you first need to try on this role and supposedly play it, in order to understand the whole logic.

This interview turned out to be quite useful for me in the sense that it allowed me to get to know my friend and her wishes about studying better.