

# Sophomore: Spring/March/Unit 5

Interviews: Two College Graduates and One Professional

**Objectives:** Interview two college graduates and one professional.  
 Contact Site Teachers and NAU Upward Bound office for help as needed.  
 Evaluate what you have learned.  
 Assist in the development of the portfolio program.

To complete this unit successfully and receive your stipend, complete the following activities:

1. Use the questions provided in this unit, conduct two interviews with two college graduates.
2. Using the questions provided, interview one professional from, or near your community.
3. Fill out the evaluation sheet when you have completed the unit assignments.
4. Fill out the Honorarium/Stipend Request form.
5. Complete this unit and be prepared to review it by \_\_\_\_\_.

Once you have completed this unit, you should meet with an Upward Bound staff member to go over it. This is the last portfolio unit of the year. Have a great summer!

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How much will I earn this month?	
C = \$40.00 complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 100% complete</li> <li>• Unit turned in on time</li> </ul>
P = \$20.00 partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit <b>more than</b> 50% complete</li> <li>• Unit turned in on time</li> </ul>
0 = \$0.0 incomplete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A unit turned in <b>late</b> is considered incomplete</li> <li>• A unit <b>less than</b> 50% complete is considered incomplete</li> </ul>

What to do if you are absent on the day Portfolio's are to be reviewed by Upward Bound staff members?	
Planned Absences (e.g., basketball games, track meets, etc.)	Unplanned Absences (e.g., sickness, flat tire, abduction by aliens, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Give your binder to your site teacher <b>before you leave</b> for the planned absence.</li> <li>◆ If you give your binder to your site teacher <b>before you leave</b>, then the UB staff can review your work and you are still eligible for the full \$40.00 stipend.</li> <li>◆ If you forget to leave your binder with your site teacher before you leave, then your work is late and you are no longer eligible for a stipend.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Give your binder to your site teacher <b>As Soon As You get back to school</b>.</li> <li>◆ If you give your binder to your site teacher <b>As Soon As You return from an unplanned absence</b>, then you are still eligible for the full \$40.00 stipend.</li> <li>◆ If you forget to give your binder to your site teacher <b>As Soon As You return</b>, then your work is late and you are no longer eligible for a stipend.</li> </ul>

## **Step 1: Conducting Interviews**

One of the best ways to get information and to find out if a particular school or career is the one for you is to communicate with experienced people around you. Community members are often valuable resources for information as you begin to explore future educational and career options. For this unit, you will interview two college graduates and one professional.

It is not required, but recommended, that **the professional selected for the interview have a career in which you may be interested.** The two college graduates should have a four-year degree and should be from a school and/or working in a career in which you may be interested.

To conduct your interviews, it is appropriate to contact the people you would like to interview at least a week in advance, and set up an appointment that will best fit their schedule and which will work for you, too. You may decide to interview in person, by phone or by email. Each interview should take approximately 30 minutes. If for some reason you cannot meet at the time agreed upon, make sure to contact that person well before the scheduled time in order to apologize and reschedule.

Once you have completed your interviews, use the evaluation sheet at the end of the unit to evaluate in writing what you have learned.

Here's an example of what you might say when you contact the person you'd like to interview:

“Hello, my name is Diana Betoney. I'm a student from Alchesay High School and I'm working on a unit for the Upward Bound Program. Our goal is to gain knowledge from people in our community about possible college and career choices, and our assignment is to interview two college graduates and one professional. Would you be willing to allow me to interview you?”

(person agrees)

“Great! We can interview in person, by phone, or by email. I have (15 or 20) questions to ask, and it should take about a half an hour.”

(set up a time/place)

“Thank you. I'll see you/talk to you then!”

Once the interview is over, it is appropriate to write a thank you note to the person you interviewed.

Write the responses below the questions, or use a separate sheet of paper if you prefer.

Listen well!

## Questions for a College Graduate

1. From what university did you graduate? How did you choose this university?
2. What did you like most about the university itself?
3. What did you like least about the university?
4. What was your major? How many times, if any, did you change your major? What was your minor?
5. What kind of financial aid, if any, did you receive?
6. Did you live on campus, off campus, or both? Which did you prefer, and why?
7. Did you work? If so, what kind of job/jobs did you have? Do you recommend getting a job while taking classes?
8. At what age did you realize you wanted to attend college? Why did you want to go?

9. Who was influential in encouraging you/helping you get to college, and in what way/s?
  
10. Share one difficult experience you encountered while in college.
  
11. Share one rewarding experience you encountered while in college.
  
12. Share one embarrassing experience you encountered while in college.
  
13. Explain how you were able to manage your study time.
  
14. How often did you travel home to visit family or friends?
  
15. What types of support services did you use at your school?
  
16. How did you meet people when you got to school?

17. What types of extracurricular activities, if any, were you involved in?

18. Realizing that university life is a major transition from high school, what was your biggest challenge during your freshman year? Knowing what you know now, what, if anything, would you do differently during your first year at the university?

19. What do you believe your college degree has done for you? How has it improved the quality of your life?

20. Based on your experience, what advice can you offer to someone like me who is considering going to college?

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2. What did you like most about the university itself?
3. What did you like least about the university?
4. What was your major? How many times, if any, did you change your major? What was your minor?
5. What kind of financial aid, if any, did you receive?
6. Did you live on campus, off campus, or both? Which did you prefer, and why?
7. Did you work? If so, what kind of job/jobs did you have? Do you recommend getting a job while taking classes?
8. At what age did you realize you wanted to attend college? Why did you want to go?

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### Questions for a Professional

1. What is your profession? How long have you been in this profession?
2. What attracted you to this profession?
3. What do you like most about your job?
4. What, if anything, would you change about your current position?
5. What kind of educational training does your job require?
6. What are my chances of getting a job in your field? What kind of pay could I expect?
7. Describe the place where you work.



**SOPHOMORE MID-MONTH PORTFOLIO CHECK-IN SHEET**  
**Spring/March/Unit 5      Interviews: Two College Graduates and One Professional**

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

**Directions: To obtain full credit complete this check-in sheet of your unit work.**

- It is advisable to take time to think of what portfolio work you need to complete between now and the day your portfolio is due, and get to work on it!
- Please circle the appropriate response and answer in complete sentences where asked.

1. What parts of the unit have you completed?
  - a. all of it
  - b. half or more
  - c. very little of it
  - d. none of it
  
2. When do you work on your unit?
  - a. at home in the evening
  - b. on the weekends
  - c. during class
  - d. on the bus going to/from school
  - e. other (*please explain*):
  
3. Rate the difficulty of this unit. 1 is easy and 5 is very hard.  
1      2      3      4      5
  
4. From whom did you/will you seek help for this unit?
  - a. teacher
  - b. friend
  - c. parent
  - d. other adult (*please identify*)
  - e. other (*please explain*)
  
5. How well did you manage your time during this unit?
  - a. very well
  - b. ok
  - c. not great
  - d. poorly
  
6. Look at your answer to number 5, how could you improve the way you manage your time? Or if you answered “a. very well”, what else could you do to be a more efficient time manager?



# STUDENT GRADE CHECK

**Instructions:** Fill out this form. Obtain an estimate of your current grade from each of your teachers. He/she should sign and date next to each grade in the appropriate column. Include this form in your Portfolio Unit for review by Upward Bound staff at your next Portfolio visit.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Class	Grade	Teacher's Name (Printed)	Teacher's Signature	Date	Comments
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					

STUDENT: Please give an explanation for any grade that is a C+ or lower in the space provided below. Feel free to use an additional page if necessary.