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ANTH 323

Professor Perry

Commentary on my Interview Experience

It was difficult to set up a time for my interview because my interviewee is a very busy person and was home this past weekend. We decided that we could both meet Sunday night (November 8th) and said that we would meet at Glatfeltor and find an empty room. I got to Glatfeltor early and set up what I thought was a good interview location in the anthropology office lobby area where there were two chairs I sort of angled towards each other.

At about that time my interviewee texted me saying that she had been working in the CAB office and that it was empty if I wanted to go over there to do the interview. The CAB office was a good place for the interview because it was relaxed and we could be comfortable. The interview was at 10 at night and my interviewee had had a long weekend at home so we were both kind of tired but the setting helped to make it seem like and informal formal interview, which I think was good. In hindsight we probably could have picked a better time, specifically when she was better well rested, but I don’t think that either of us could have known that her weekend would have been so tiring.

I think I was good at getting her to talk about certain things, but listening to myself on the recording I didn’t really finish my questions at all, I just sort of let them taper off. This might be a positive because she usually would get where I was going, or what I was trying to ask, and be able to elaborate on these things nicely, but listening to myself on the recording sounded unprofessional to me. One thing that I was really good at however, was making affirmative noises (yeah, uh huh, etc) and maintaining eye contact. I think this helped keep the flow of the interview and let her know that she was good to keep talking and everything. Another thing that I was afraid was deterring her was that I would periodically check the tape recorder to make sure that it was still recording. After hearing Gracie’s story about how she did her whole interview and the tape recorded stopped like three minutes in, I was a little paranoid that the same thing would happen to me. This didn’t really deter my interviewee from talking, but I was afraid that she thought that I was seeing how much longer we had to go or something like that.

My pre-made questionnaire was very helpful, I tend to get flustered and it helped to keep me on track for the most part. I was very surprised at how fast the questions went and had to improvise for about the last 12 minutes or so of the interview. Another thing was that I wanted to make sure I had covered all my questions but since some things had come up in the conversation before I had brought them up by myself, there were a couple of times that I got flustered or had awkward pauses before I found the next question I wanted to ask. Luckily this only happened a couple times though and it wasn’t too bad. I don’t think that there are any inaccuracies in the information that I was given. And if there were some I don’t think that they were consciously presented to mislead me. After going back through the interview there were some things that I wish I had elaborated more on but I can only learn from them for my next interview. Overall, I think it went well but for most of my other interviews I think I’ll make them less formal and more conversational. I think that I’ll be able to get more of people’s feelings on the topic of going Greek in more informal situations than in formal interviews.

Key Marks--

OOOOPS! #1 🡪 This was one of the time I got flustered and didn’t know what I was going to ask next. Luckily she understood and I think it went okay in the end.

OOOOPS! #2🡪 I think that I might have been leading here a bit. I was sort of coming up with the question as I was asking it so it wasn’t very well thought out.

WOOOT! #1🡪 Here I think I am getting my interviewee to elaborate nicely on her views of formal recruitment because she talked for about 15-20 more lines after I said this.

WOOOT! #2🡪 I think this is sort of like a naïve question. As a member of a sorority I knew what these changes were already but I wanted her prospective on them and how she thought they affected recruitment and girls deciding to go Greek.