

**Workshop 9: The Art of the Memoir****Reading 3 Project: An Interview with Francisco Jiménez**  
**Conduct an Interview**

*How do you face a challenge? Find out from someone who's done it.*

**Project:** Interview a teen or adult who has faced a challenge in his or her life.

**Procedure**

**1. Choose someone to interview.** Who has overcome a huge obstacle? Pick a classmate, a family member, or someone in your community. Ask if he or she would be willing to talk to you about an important event in his or her life.

**2. Prepare questions.** Ask questions about your subject's experiences.

- Have you ever faced a problem that changed your life?
- How did you feel about the challenge?
- Would you handle the situation the same way if it happened again?
- What did you learn from the challenge?

Think of other questions. Write them on index cards.

**3. Conduct the interview.** Conduct your interview in person, over the phone, or through email. Be prepared to take notes.

- Remember to be a good listener.
- Try to restate answers and ask follow-up questions. For example: "The way you handled the situation was difficult. Are you glad you did it?"
- Thank the person for the interview.

**4. Present your work.** Write or type your interview in a question-and-answer format. For example:

**Your Name:** Have you ever faced a tough obstacle?

**Subject's Name:** Yes, when I had to repeat the eighth grade.