**Character Interviews on NaNo-TV**

Supports Common Core Standards for English Language Arts:

* **Grade 6**: Writing: 5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
* **Grade 7**: Writing: 5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach after rethinking how well questions of purpose have been addressed.
* **Grade 8**: Writing: 5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach after rethinking how well questions of purpose and context have been addressed.

**Objective**

By the end of this lesson, SWBAT:

1. Through peer collaboration, try a new approach to strengthening their writing.
2. Develop major and minor characters by “stepping into their characters’ shoes.”

*Note: We’ve created three interviews for your students’ characters (protagonist, supporting, and antagonist), under the premise that students’ characters have been invited to be interviewed on TV. This lesson can be duplicated for the supporting character interview and the antagonist interview and be spread over three days. And they don’t have to be consecutive!*

**Materials Needed**

* A box of props for students to wear including things like hats, wigs, funny articles of clothing...whatever you can find!
* Copies of the ["Character Interviews on NaNo-TV" worksheet](http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/files/ywp/ywp_10_ms_nano-tv.pdf); one for each student. This can also be found on page 74 of the Young Novelist Workbook.

**Character Interviews on NaNo-TV**

**Step One: Your Characters’ Closets**

*5 minutes*

On a separate sheet of paper, have students make a list of clothes and accessories that are in each of their characters' closets (their protagonist, a supporting character, and their antagonist). They should make a list of at least five items per character.

**Step Two: Introduce Character Interviews on NaNo TV**

*5 minutes*

1. Announce that all the students’ characters have been invited to be interviewed on NaNo-TV! Say, “Unfortunately, your characters can’t make it because they are so busy being in your novel. That means that *you* will have to step into your characters’ shoes and pretend to be them while they are on TV. Your character will be asked questions during the television interview, and you will have to answer *in the voice of your character*.”

**Step Three: Interviews**

*30–40 minutes*

1. Have students take out the lists of items in their characters’ closets, then each pick a prop item from the prop box that his or her protagonist might wear. (If students request items that are not in the box, they can use the power of imagination to pretend they are wearing the items they need!)

3. Pair students up and start with the "Protagonist" interview. Have one student play the part of host, while their partner plays the part of their protagonist. Have the first student interview the second. Encourage interviewees to include as much detailed language as possible to give the TV viewers a solid idea of who their characters are. (10 minutes)

4. Now have the students switch roles. The second student will now interview the first. (10 minutes)

5. If your students are anxious to get to novel writing, you can go ahead and let them at their novels. If they seem to be enjoying this activity, encourage another round of interview questions, having students now make up their own questions to ask their partners (who are still acting as their protagonists).

**Step Four: Closing It Up**

*5 minutes*

Have students step out of their characters’ shoes by returning items to the prop box. Let them know that they will be interviewed as their supporting character and antagonist in the future and should bring in props/clothing items from home if they saw that there was nothing that would work in the prop box for those characters.

**Homework**

Homework is to keep writing!