## You Be Charlie: Interview Assignment Deadline: Tuesday after Spring Break

Source:

<http://www.charlierose.com/guest/grid/popular>

<http://www.charlierose.com/topic/movies_tv_theater>

<http://www.charlierose.com/topic/sports>

<http://www.charlierose.com/topic/current_affairs>

This is a three-part assignment:

Find interesting people among Charlie Rose's 20-to-60-minute interview programs (not the shorter clips).

**For Thursday before break**: Come to class prepared to discuss your interview choices and first impressions of Charlie’s interview style, if you are already a fan or had time to actually watch an interview or two online.

**Over the break:** Read Harrower's chapter 4 discussion of interviewing and review the chapter 3 and 4 tips on news writing, especially leads, quotes and attribution.

**For the Tuesday after break, write** a 400-to-550-word story **about the person** who was interviewed and what he or she had to say. Write as though YOU (not Rose) did the interview -- and are writing a story that might appear on the show's Web page the morning after the late-night broadcast. Keep yourself (the interviewer, Charlie Rose) out of the story.

Tips:

* Focus on the **person**, not the fact that he or she appeared on the program or that “you” (Charlie) interviewed him or her. (DO NOT start with something like “Last night we had the pleasure of sitting down with…”)
* Write in the third person.
* Don't "review" the show, "***report***" an interesting story about the person who was interviewed.
* Quote selectively. Carefully transcribe from three to five good full-sentence quotes that do not need paraphrasing or parenthetical inserts. Do additional background research as needed to check facts and make the story clear to people who aren't familiar with the interviewee.
* If you dig back into the program’s archives from past years, pretend you are writing the story immediately after the interview; only use "facts" you would have known then. (Not that the actress won an Oscar weeks or months after the interview, etc.)
* The lead should share ***something new or interesting that you learned*** about the person or his or her opinions. Listen for questions and answers that focus on challenges the person overcame, surprising reactions to events, or some insight into current affairs.
* After the lead: Introduce new topics using standard transitional devices like association, contrast, comparisons or time elements.
* Use description where appropriate, “The actor, still wearing the beard he grew for his role as Lincoln, said he is looking forward to playing a clean-shaven serial killer in his next film.”
* Don't worry about including everything that came up in the interview. If you can't figure out a transition to something, leave it out.
* Handle the interview context with a phrase like “… in an interview broadcast on Friday’s Charlie Rose program” or “... in an interview about her new book (or film or whatever) for Friday’s Charlie Rose show” or (if the show was a public event with audience questions) “… in an interview on stage before an audience at Radford University.”