

# Speaking Out: A Dialogue About Conflict and Community

## Interview: Biographical Narrative Writing

### LISTENING GOALS

- Take detailed and accurate notes about the **specific experience** that you are documenting. *Include who, what, where, when, why and how model.*
- Take notes on the body language, tone of voice, choice of words and unique responses your interviewee expresses.
- Understand how these verbal and non-verbal cues communicate a specific feeling, mood or information about the speaker.
- Ask relevant questions that encourage the speaker to share more **specific details** about their experience and feelings.

### WRITING GOALS

- Document (describe) a sequence of events in a person's life.
- Identify the times, places and people involved in the events you document.
- Describe with concrete sensory details the sights, sounds, and smells of the events you are documenting.
- Describe the specific actions, movements, gestures, and feelings of the character (the person you are interviewing)
- Use what the person says they felt and thought to communicate the feelings and mood of the moment accurately.
- Present information about the actions and thoughts **before, during, and after** the experience described. *This helps the reader understand the sequence of actions and simultaneous changes in the mood of a person.*
- Use descriptions of specific images and sensory details to convey a mood and make the reader feel like they are there with the character.

**WRITING GOAL: Does your written narrative communicate the significance of the story you are presenting and interest your reader in learning more about the person you feature?**