Potential interview questions:

- Define empathy for the person you’re speaking with.
- How long have you been working in your field?
- What is your definition of “social activism”?
- What do you study?
- What is your position in your department/job?
- How do you hear about news? (In general & in your field)
- What have you done so far in your field?
- Why did you go into your field?
- Have you ever felt passionately about a specific [e.g., civil rights] movement? If so, how did you insert yourself into the movement or how did you act upon it?
- Would you recommend that we engage in that movement?
- Do you consider yourselves an empathetic person?
- How do you think your field helps others (or how they better others’ lives)?
- If you don’t feel like your field currently does things to active help others, what do you do in your own time? What might you do if you had more time?

Activism

- Protest - (rally, counterprotests)
- Social change, getting a group together
- Promoting open-mindedness
- Informing others
• Writing papers
• Participating in political groups
• Donating to a cause ($ and otherwise)
• Volunteering
• Listening to others
• Post things on social media
• Give advice
• Encouragement
• Independent research
• Boycotts
• Petitions
• Phone calls to people in power
• Voting
• Unions

**Write-up**

Please submit this write-up on HuskyCT by the beginning of class, **Wednesday, September 13th**. I ask that the document be in a variation of .doc/.docx or PDF formats. Please use 12pt., Times New Roman font, double-spaced throughout, with 1-inch margins. In the right hand top corner of the page, please include a header with your last name and the page number.

• Schedule an interview to take place (in person, via email, phone, etc.)
• Use the email draft below to help you construct your own interview request. This interview may be with someone working in your prospective future career field, your major, or otherwise a person whom you admire or are interested in.
• Ask the interviewee at least 4-5 questions, taking notes, recording (with their permission), or saving the answers they give you.
• Submit a write-up that includes the following:
  ○ A summary of interview in terms of the experience, how it went, and the answers given. (This will act as a sort of overview of the transcription following it.)
  ○ A copy of the questions asked and transcription of the answers (either in full, if via email, or summary if only through your notes)
  ○ Discussion of what you learned about this person and their view of activism, empathy, and their field.
  ○ Discussion of how this gives you a sense of the way empathy-driven activism (in the broad way in which we’re defining it) occurs in the lives of others.
  ○ How does this give you some sense of where you might start brainstorming the causes and issues that interest you?
• NB: Your write-ups will vary in length.
Model interview request email

NB: This is only one potential draft. You may change it as suits you.

Dear Professor/Person X,

My name is BLAH and I am a student at UConn. Right now I am taking an English course titled “Seminar in Academic Writing.” For this class, I’m conducting research on empathy and social activism, and I would like to request an interview with you about your views and experiences regarding social activism. [As a BLANK student, I am really interested in X.] Please let me know if you would be interested in doing this. I am available to meet [Days] at [Times]. If you are unable to meet with me in person, I can email you the questions. I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you,

Your Name