

## ~The Art of Contacting Interviewees~

- Interviews can take anywhere from 5 to 45 minutes, so plan accordingly!
- Beforehand, do some research about the article you are assigned & what angle you want to take, so you have general idea of who to contact

### Who should I interview?

- **At least six interviewees** per article
  - Spheres of perspective
- Diverse interviewees
  - Students from all four grades and teachers from different subjects
  - Different ethnicities, cultures, races, religions, genders, etc.
  - Cover the extremes (someone who strongly agrees with topic and someone who strongly disagrees) and everything in between
  - People from in and outside of the immediate South community

**Best way to contact: THROUGH MUTUAL FRIENDS/CONNECTIONS — this will result in more people saying yes!**

- Students
  - Phone number, if you have it
  - Facebook messenger
  - Instagram dm's
- Teachers
  - Email (found on school website)
- Outside experts
  - Email

**INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE OVER THE PHONE OR IN PERSON. DO NOT CONDUCT TEXT OR EMAIL INTERVIEWS UNLESS YOU HAVE A COMPELLING REASON TO DO SO. IF YOU MUST, CONFIRM WITH SENIOR EDITORS BEFOREHAND.**

### Sample messages:

For students/teachers:

Hi \_\_\_\_\_,

I hope you are having a great [day/weekend/night]! I am a reporter/editor for South's paper, The Lion's Roar. I am currently writing about \_\_\_\_\_ and am hoping to get your perspective because \_\_\_\_\_ [include if someone referred you to them/if you have a mutual friend]. I was wondering if I could conduct a short interview with you on this topic — it should take about [time estimate]. If you are interested, we could speak over the phone, over a Zoom or FaceTime, or some time in person — whenever is most convenient for you.

Thank you and have a great day,

\_\_\_\_\_

For outside sources:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I hope you are having a great (day/night/weekend). My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a reporter/editor for my high school's national award-winning newspaper, Newton South *The Lion's Roar*. I am currently writing about \_\_\_\_\_, and I was wondering if I could conduct a short interview with you about this topic because \_\_\_\_\_. It should take [time estimate]. If you are interested, we can speak over the phone at your convenience.

Thank you,

\_\_\_\_\_