

Interview Protocol

1. Tell the students that it is okay if they want to withdraw from the study and reinforce that this will have no implications in their school day-to-day life.
2. Ask the student if it is okay if to ask them some questions about science and record it with the tape recorder. If they say no, then ask if it is possible to make notes while they are speaking. If they say no, then end the interview.
3. Please state the student's ID at the beginning and the end of the interview for the tape recorder for organisation purposes. Refrain from using personally identifiable details such as student' names and school identification.
4. Explain to students that they should speak loudly enough so that the microphone picks up their voices clearly. If the child speaks softly, repeat their responses verbatim to confirm their discourse. Reinforce that they can also use hand gestures (mimic) and/or drawings to support their explanations. If hand gestures are used, then write notes about the gestures used during the explanations and add students' ID to the notes. If a drawing is used, add students' ID to the drawing.
5. In group interviews, mention that students can discuss their answers during the interview, but they should speak separately for clarity in the recordings.
6. If the student is unsure about the question asked, they should flag this and the researcher should provide further explanation about the question being asked.
7. The science questions asked in the interview are the same as knowledge test to allow for an in-depth understanding of students comprehension of the questions and knowledge about each topic involved in the study. However, if necessary, the researcher can ask questions to clarify their reasoning such as: "what do you mean?", "Can you elaborate a bit more on this?" or "can you give an example?". If the interview is in a group, the researcher can also ask "do you agree/disagree with them? If so, why?" for group understanding.