

Interview with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade boy who is a student at Junior High School in  
The setting is at my home. He is a friend of my son. Before the  
interview, an exchange took place (off-tape) about the nature of the interview. I thought  
it was a very interesting conversation and I've attempted to encapsulate it below.

**I: Interviewer**

**H: Student**

**I:** I'm going to be interviewing you, asking you some questions about school.

**H:** How about we talk about something else.

**I:** Well, what I'm interested in for my research is education and how students learn best.

**H:** Can't it be something besides me and how I learn.

**I:** Do you have any ideas?

**H:** No. Why don't you run some ideas by me.

**I:** We could talk about the underground economies at school. The things that kids trade -  
kind of the black market of schools.

**H:** What? What are you talking about? We can do the first thing, but I'd rather it not be  
too personal. I can talk in general about school and students. But I don't want it be like  
"How do you feel...but maybe about teachers and school in general."

So, that's how the pre-interview discussion went. I was immediately intrigued by the  
negotiating that went on before we got started. I sensed a definite unwillingness to get  
'personal' as he put it. So, I proceeded with this in mind. But ultimately, once we got  
started, he was able to talk on personal terms.

was useful note