Interview script example (C2C resource, modified by M. Caesar)

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| Structure |  | Language |
|  | Interview script: Juror 13 [imagined extra juror]  *The interviewer sits arranging papers at a table. Juror 13 slowly enters the room. The interviewer stands to greet him.*  **Interviewer**: (*standing*) Hello, No. 13, and welcome.  [*The two men shake hands.*]  I’m very grateful that you agreed to be interviewed. Please take a seat and we’ll get started.  [*They sit and the ‘on air’ light flickers on.*]  Hellooo, ladies and gentlemen and welcome to Zinc 96.1, I’m John Smith and with me today in the studio is Juror 13 from the recent murder trial. Welcome and thanks for joining us Juror 13.  **No. 13**: (*smiling weakly*) It’s my pleasure. The trial is all I’ve been able to think about recently so it’ll be good … I mean, a bit of a relief … to talk to someone about what I went through in that jury room.  **Interviewer**: Yes, I’m sure it’s not an experience you could easily forget. Now, can you tell me what the mood was like in the room during your deliberations?  **No. 13**: Well, the room was hot that day, like a boiler, and of course we were locked in so everyone was tense right from the start. There were some fiery characters among the jurors and tempers were frayed.  **Interviewer**: Which jurors in particular were ‘fiery’, as you put it?  **No 13**: Eh, well, I suppose No. 3 and No. 10 were the ones who were most likely to fly off the handle. No. 3 was especially stubborn and aggressive. Totally oblivious to any other points of view! There were a few times I was sure he was going to lose it and hit one of us.  **Interviewer**: What effect do you think No. 3 had on the jury process?  **No. 13**: Look, I’m sure some jurors were a bit intimidated by him, but in the end I believe we all got a chance to say what we thought.  **Interviewer**: So what did you think?  [*No. 13 looks tense and sits forward in his chair.*]  **No.13**: I have to be honest and say that at the start I just assumed that the boy was guilty. (*Laughs sadly*) Can you imagine that? I wasn’t even willing to give the kid a second thought!  **Interviewer**: Even though it was the kid’s life on the line?  **No.13:** (*puts his head in his hands*) Oh God! Yes! I was so blinded that I didn’t even stop to think about the life of the accused.  **Interviewer**: You say you were blinded … (*leans forward*) … by what?  **No. 13**: (*staring at the interviewer*) I’ll tell you what blinded me. Prejudice! That’s what blinded me! As soon as I saw the boy in court I labelled him as a typical slum kid. He wasn’t an individual in my mind … just a stereotypical, troublesome youth.  **Interviewer**: So how did you manage to reach a verdict of ‘not guilty’?  **No. 13**: (*grinning*) Thankfully, there was one juror who wasn’t afraid to stand alone against the crowd. He stood up to the threats of the bullies in the room and encouraged the rest of us to put our prejudices to one side and look for justice. At last we were doing what a jury is supposed to do … you know … examining the facts to determine whether there was reasonable doubt that the boy had killed his father.  **Interviewer**: And at what point exactly did you decide that there was a reasonable doubt in your mind?  **No.13**: (*hesitantly*) Now, let me think. I suppose I began to wonder about the reliability of the evidence when No. 8 produced a knife identical to the so-called murder weapon.  **Interviewer**: (*nodding*) And then?  **No.13**: Well, I decided to vote ‘not guilty’ when it became clear that the old man couldn’t have heard the boy threatening his father… I mean, have you heard the roaring noise of an elevated train? It’s just not possible to hear anything over it. That put more than a doubt in my mind and I knew I had to give the boy the justice he deserved.  **Interviewer**: You said at the start of the interview that you think about the trial all the time. Do you ever wonder whether the boy did kill his father?  **No.13**: Look, I suppose none of us will ever know for sure, but in that room that day we jurors had a job to do and we did it the best we could. In the end, we examined the facts, we overcame our prejudices and we recognised that we had reasonable doubt about the guilt of the accused. When you come to that conclusion, there is only one verdict that the law allows you to reach, and that is, ‘not guilty’.  **Interviewer**: It certainly is an experience that will live with you forever and I’d like to thank you for sharing it with my readers.  **No.13:** You’re very welcome and I hope this interview will help your readers understand the great moral responsibility that comes with serving on a jury.  *[No.13 stands, shakes the interviewer’s hand and leaves the room.]* |  |