

Good Old Standby Questions:

What happened next?

What makes you say that?

How did you deal with that?

How did that affect you?

What do you want now?

What stays with you?

Always be ready to ask why?

Listening:

Stuart McLean once said that for most of us (meaning broadcasters and journalists,) listening is waiting for a chance to start talking again.

What happens when we don't listen?

- We miss important threads to follow
- We miss contradictions or inaccuracies in what is being said
- We repeat things that have been said already and sound stupid
- We show disrespect to the guest. If they think you don't care, they won't.
- We can miss crucial turning points in the interview
- We let the audience (for whom you are asking the questions) down

What happens when we are listening well?

- We help the interviewee tell their story well
- The interviewee will often match your interest with their own enthusiasm and care
- We challenge the interviewee to be at their best and to be honest
- The interview stays on track and can be delivered within the time allowed
- The audience can hear (and see) the listening and the thinking that is going on

"Many journalists are terrible questioners in that they are much more concerned with showing you and the other journalists what they know than in asking you what you think."