

Conducting a semi-structured interview  
Lesson 1: Opening the interview

## Model Answer - Exercise 2

### REMINDER OF THE INSTRUCTIONS

Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the presentations in the video to identify which presentation is the best.

Reminder of the context: opening an interview with a forestry engineer.

### MODEL ANSWER:

<p><b>Case n°1</b></p> <p>"Hello, I have been given the mandate by the Ministry to investigate the quality of information given on forest fires. The current information is unreliable."</p>	<p><b>Model Answer</b></p> <p>The presentation of the study is very formal: "I have been given the mandate by the Ministry". It is perceived as being threatening because the interviewer hides himself behind an authority. The wording, "investigate the quality of information given" reminds one of a "police investigation". This attitude does not facilitate an exchange of confidence between the two participants. The interviewer expresses an opinion: "The current information is unreliable."</p>
<p><b>Case n°2</b></p> <p>"Hello, I would like to know the difficulties that you have encountered in transmitting information on forest fires to reduce the weaknesses that we found in national statistical data."</p>	<p><b>Model Answer</b></p> <p>The wording induces a response by saying, "I would like to know the <b>difficulties</b>." In this wording, the time of the survey "seeking to understand" is mixed with the time of the action "reduce the weaknesses".</p>

<p><b>Case n°3</b></p> <p>"Hello, I am trying to understand how information on forest fires is transmitted from the disaster site in the field up to the national data base. This is to improve the quality of knowledge on this subject."</p>	<p><b>Model Answer</b></p> <p><b>Case n°3 is the best presentation of the study.</b> One is in a situation of understanding, the interviewer is seeking to understand what happens. The presentation situates the scope of the study more precisely than in the other cases. She fixes the objective while remaining neutral. This is not the only wording possible but it is the most suitable out of the 4 cases.</p>
<p><b>Case n°4</b></p> <p>"Hello, My study topic consists of describing and analyzing the transmission chain of information related to forest fires from the field up to the national statistical data base. Statistical knowledge on this topic does not enable at present the correct decisions to be taken to reduce the incidence of fires."</p>	<p><b>Model Answer</b></p> <p>The presentation of the study is poor. The interviewer positions herself as a principal actor in the exchange that will take place, she uses the interviewee for her own ends. The language is turgid, the wording is heavy handed with very technical jargon. She gives a negative judgment: "Statistical knowledge on this topic <b>does not enable</b> at present <b>the correct decisions</b> to be taken to reduce the incidence of fires." The wording mixes the time of the survey with the time of the action: "reduce the incidence of fires."</p>