

# Using Journalism to Engage Young People

## Interview Scenarios

**We train young people through using experiential learning. So in this situation we would get young people to try out interviewing for themselves. First in a supported environment – through role play and then reflection, then giving them the opportunity of interviewing for real.**

### **Exercise**

- Split the group into half – one side are reporters, the other the general public.
- Give the general public group a character card each.
- Read out the scenario.
- Challenge the reporters to gather as much information as possible.

### **The Scenario**

Your News Editor has just heard that a riot is happening on the local high street. Shops are being looted and cars are being set on fire. Your News Editor wants you to go straight down there and find out what is happening. You must interview the people there.

You have 3 minutes before your News Editor wants to hear back from you.

# Character Card

<p><b>Police Officer</b>          You would like to talk to the press, but are under orders to say only that the police have the matter under control.          You are not allowed to answer any of the reporters questions.</p>	<p><b>Young Person</b>          You have a lot to say.          You believe that the riots have started because the government has let down society and the gap between rich and poor is increasing and that there is no real future for young people.          You have been involved in the looting.</p>
<p><b>Parent</b>          You are not involved in the riots but are watching them from a safe distance.          You understand why the young people are angry, high tuition fees, high unemployment, police harassment, youth clubs being shut down. But you do not agree that senseless violence and rioting is the answer. You believe that your teenage child is involved in the rioting and looting.</p>	<p><b>Elderly Resident</b>          You live above a shop that is getting smashed up. You are scared and frightened and don't understand why this is all happening.          You are scared that the shop will get set on fire and it will spread to your flat. Your wife/husband is housebound and in a wheelchair. You are scared that if a fire is started you won't be able to get them out in time.</p>
<p><b>Shop Owner</b>          You own a small family run off licence. It has had its windows smashed and has been looted by the rioters. This shop is your livelihood. You don't understand why the rioters are picking on your shop? If they are unhappy with the government and the police why are they picking on a small local community shopkeeper?          You are really frustrated and angry and you think you have seen some of the rioters in your shop before.</p>	<p><b>Young Person</b>          You are not involved in the riots. You are watching it from a safe distance.          You are really disappointed and shocked that people living in deprived communities feel the need to destroy the little that they have. You fear that these riots will now lead to young people being stigmatised and it is going to be impossible for young people to gain respect again. You also don't recognise a lot of the young people and think they have come from other areas of the city.</p>
<p><b>Innocent Bystander</b>          You are a young looking 26 year old computer programmer. The riots happened so quickly, you ended up right in the middle of it. You were knocked off your bike when a big group of rioters came running towards you as they were running from the police. Two men, you think 23-25 years old, picked up your bike, kicked you and ran off with it. While you were dazed and confused the line of police came and pushed and knocked you about as if you were one of the rioters.</p>	<p><b>Fire-fighter</b>          You and your team are trying to put out the fires that have been started by the rioters – shops, cars and flats. All you want to do is your job but you and your team are being prevented by bricks and other missiles being thrown at you and your Fire engine being smashed up.          You don't really have an opinion on why the riots are happening, but you can't see why they are picking on a service like the fire brigade that is there to save lives?</p>

