

# The Interview Guide

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW · SKILL 1

The best research in this lab comes from real people. This guide gives you questions for **three kinds of people** with very different views of the food story in Hunts Point. Pick one to start. **Ask open questions, listen more than you talk, and follow the thread** — the best question is often the one you didn't plan.

INTERVIEWER(S)

WHO YOU SPOKE WITH (ROLE, NOT  
NAME)

DATE

## A · A BODEGA OR SMALL-GROCERY OWNER

The person who has run the corner store — ask about the business behind the counter.

1. How long have you run this store, and how did you get started?

2. What does it take to keep prices where they are? Where do you have room, and where don't you?

3. How do you think a new city-run store nearby would affect your business?

4. What would actually help a store like yours serve this neighborhood better?

## B · A NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT / SHOPPER

The person the store is meant to serve — ask about real life and the real budget.

1. Where do you shop for food, and why there? How far do you travel?

2. What's hard about getting affordable, fresh food in this neighborhood?

3. If a new affordable store opened nearby, what would matter most to you — price, hours, the food it carries, something else?

## C · A FOOD-PANTRY OR COMMUNITY WORKER

The person who sees the need up close — ask about what they witness.

1. Who comes to you for food help, and what do they tell you about why?

2. What do you think the neighborhood actually needs to make food more affordable?

**BEFORE YOU START:** Tell them who you are and that it's for a school project. Ask permission to take notes. Offer to keep them anonymous. If they say no, thank them and move on. Never go alone — see the Ethics & Fieldwork Standards.