

8 PODCAST INTERVIEWING TIPS WE LEARNED THE HARD WAY

There's a lot that goes into a great podcast interview. We've done hundreds of them over the years, and some of the lessons we learned came out of frustrating mistakes and silly errors that if avoided could have saved a whole lot of hassle. So we decided to share our pain with you in order to help you avoid the problems and focus on the podcast.

1. Use your um's and uh-huh during the interview but edit them out



Keeping your guest involved and getting the best answers out of them means you need to be engaged. You are playing the part of the listener here so be active with your cues, but edit them out because the actual listeners will be doing this in their head.

2. Don't edit out all your guests ums and ahs



Those uhh's and ah's, know as disfluency, are used in natural speech and serve as a call to attention. Our brains hear an "umm" and this heightens our engagement with the content. Disfluency from your guests are audio cues that will in fact keep your listeners engaged in the conversation

3. Use your pop screen to maintain consistent mic distance



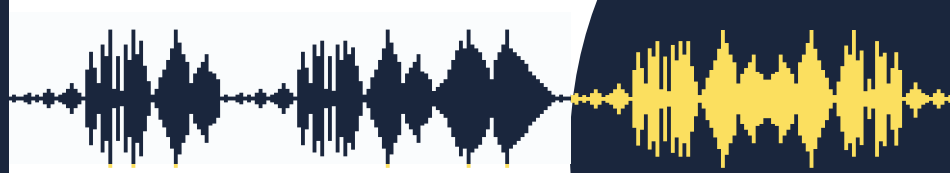
Pop screens serve two main purposes for us that save editing time: eliminating pops and plosives, and help you maintain a constant distance from your mic. Just touch the tip of your nose on the top of it when you talk - about 3 fingers of space from the mic.

4. Take notes - be able to repeat / paraphrase your guest



This serves two purposes, it keeps you engaged and focused and it helps guide the conversation. You can return to a point, paraphrase a quote, or skip a question if they have already provided the answer to it.





5. Don't ask the question if it's already been answered



A good podcast interview should sound natural, not like reading down a checklist. If a guest gives you what you need as part of an earlier question, you don't need to re-ask. Look at your notes, ask a follow up or redirect. Or skip it, less is more.

6. Compound questions are death! Ask one question at a time



It's like leading the witness in court. You are guiding them to a response you want instead of a natural answer. Give each question space and give your guest unbiased opportunities to provide answers. Let them talk and ask a follow-up after if needed.

7. Be active with your MUTE button



Editing a podcast interview can be a bear for many of the reasons stated above. Chief among them is taking out the things which disengage the audience. This is why being active with your mute button can help breathe space into the final product, and cut down on edits.

8. Use music beds to que listeners towards transitions



Music cues are a great tool to sign-post transitions to an audience. Music laid under speech can also heighten the drama of an answer, so be sure to choose your music beds wisely and match them with the tone and tenor of the interview.

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