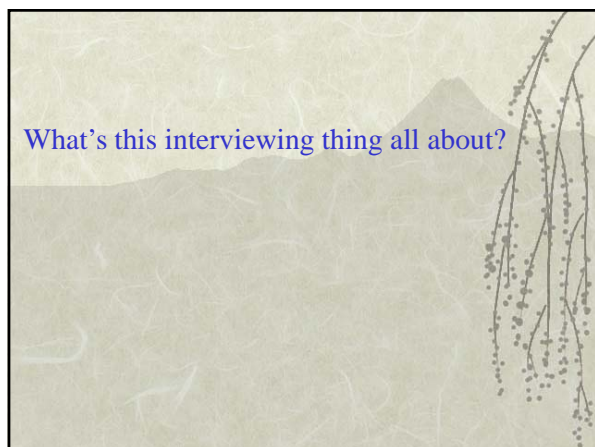
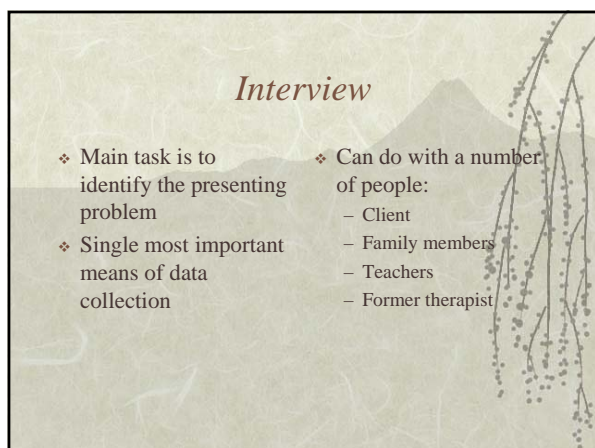


The Basics of Interviewing

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What's this interviewing thing all about?



Interview

- ❖ Main task is to identify the presenting problem
- ❖ Single most important means of data collection
- ❖ Can do with a number of people:
 - Client
 - Family members
 - Teachers
 - Former therapist

A Good Interviewer

- ❖ Must be able to work with a number of people
- ❖ Three features:
 - Obtains the most amount of accurate info
 - In a short time
 - Creates a good working environment

Interviewing

- ❖ The need for comprehensive information
- ❖ The importance of practice

The Referral Question

- ❖ All psychological evaluation begins with a referral
- ❖ The referral question shapes the type of assessment to be done
- ❖ Examples of referral questions

Interview vs. Conversation

- ❖ Interview is designed to obtain certain goals
- ❖ Interview may require discussion of unpleasant thoughts, feelings, or events
- ❖ Interviewer is in control\
- ❖ One-sided

Structured vs. Unstructured Interviews

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Structured<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increased reliability & validity- Decreased flexibility- May miss idiosyncratic info- May increase defensiveness and resistance- Allows for comparisons- Used in research and clinical settings- Can be scored by computer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Unstructured<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Decreased reliability & validity- Increased flexibility- Picks up idiosyncratic information- Increases rapport- Creates favorable changes and encourages self-exploration- Used in clinical settings |
|--|---|

What to Do in an Interview

- ❖ Opening and Introduction
- ❖ Time Factors
- ❖ Settings
- ❖ Taking Notes
- ❖ **The Opening Question**
- ❖ Free Speech
- ❖ Establishing Rapport

What to Do in an Interview

- ❖ Managing the Early Interview
- ❖ History of the Present Illness

Hints to Help

- ❖ Use open-ended questions
- ❖ Only ask a single question
- ❖ Talk in the client's language
- ❖ Choose the right probing question
 - Avoid "Why"
 - Focus on facts
- ❖ Avoid negative phrasing

Hints to Help

- ❖ Encourage precision
- ❖ Keep questions brief
- ❖ Keep on the lookout for new leads

Areas to Evaluate in the Interview

- ❖ Childhood and adolescence
- ❖ Life as an adult
- ❖ Psychological and emotional functioning
- ❖ Medical history
- ❖ Education and employment
- ❖ Financial
- ❖ A&D Use
- ❖ Social history

Mental Status Evaluation

- ❖ Attitude, behavior, and appearance
- ❖ Mood and Affect
- ❖ Speech
- ❖ Thought Content and Processes
- ❖ Sensorium
- ❖ Memory and Cognition
- ❖ Insight and Judgment

Mini-Mental Status Exam

- ❖ 30 items that assess a person's rationality
