MES gCORE Term Project Interview Questions and Interview Goals:

1. Students’ learning about qualitative research methods (through participating in the design of a qualitative research instrument and conducting and reporting results of interviews).
2. Discovery of local attitudes about climate change, in particular how residents get their information about climate change and whether they seek more information.
   1. How have they arrived at their beliefs about climate change?
   2. What understanding do they have about how climate change might impact them as residents of this region?
   3. What demand is there within the community for information about climate change?
   4. What might be effective ways to disseminate that information, for people to learn about climate change and local climate change impacts?
   5. What concerns do they have about government climate change policy or action?

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR SOUTH PUGET SOUND PARTICIPANTS:

**(5 min) Introductions, and HSR documents**

REFER TO SCRIPT (see attached) Introduce yourself, and say a few words about the study. Explain the purpose of the interview, give them the written information about the study, and ask them to read and sign the informed consent form (they can keep one copy; you need the other).

Say you would like to record the interview and explain that interviews are confidential. If recording is OK (as it should be – they should have been brief on this), set up the recorder. If recording is NOT OK, your partner will take notes.

**(10 min) icebreaking questions**

1. How would you characterize your interactions with nature? Probe: What are your general interests in the outdoors, if any? What do you like or dislike about living here in South Puget Sound?
2. How long have you lived in South Puget Sound? Please tell me about any changes in the natural environment you’ve noticed since you came here?
3. Tell me about how the local climate influences your daily life?

**(10 min) These questions are to learn about the participant’s climate change beliefs:**

1. What do you remember thinking when you first heard about climate change (on the radio, TV, newspapers, from friends, at work)?
2. What does climate change mean to you now? Why do you feel that way? Probes: In what ways (if any) do you think climate change now affects Puget Sound – and you, your family, or your friends? Probe: If no effects now, what effects in Puget Sound or Washington State might there be in 50 years? 100 years?
3. Why do you think some people are more alarmed about climate change than others?

**(10 min) These questions are to learn about the participant’s information sources.**

1. What sources do you rely on for information about climate change? Why do you choose those sources? PROBE: TV (what programs), radio (what programs), internet, newspapers, scientists, friends/family, religious gatherings.
2. What have you noticed about media reports on climate change? Probe: what have you seen on TV, magazines, newspapers? Is it accurate? In your opinion, do you think people have access to reliable and accurate information concerning climate change?

**(5 min)These questions are to learn about whether the participant’s would like to see more information about climate change, and if so what might work best:**

1. What additional information about climate change do you think would be helpful to you or those you know?
2. IF THEY RESPONDED WITH SOME IDEAS, ASK: How would you like to see that information presented?

**(5 min) Ask about the role organizations or government agencies (local, state, national) should take or NOT take about climate change**

1. Could instituting government policy have an impact on climate change?
2. Do you believe community leaders are helping their communities prepare for climate change? If so—in what way? How is this being received? If not—why not?
3. What would be the reaction to government mandated regulations aimed at curbing climate change?

**(10 min) Ask if there is anything else they’d like to say or ask about the topic?**

Hand them the 15-item questionnaire, an unstamped envelope, a pencil or pen, and ask

1. Please fill out this questionnaire now, put it in the envelope, and give it back to me.

THANK THEM, remind them we’d like to send results of the survey if they like, or if they prefer to look at those results as posted on the web site.

Hand them the longer questionnaire with addressed, stamped envelope, and ask them to fill it out within the next 10 days, and mail it.

Thank them again for their time, say goodbye (shake hands).