

Starter Interview Questions

Written on its own page so we can print it out and jot quick notes during the interview.

When in doubt, remember that the goals of these interviews are to collect actionable insights to share with tutorial authors about how they can efficiently write great tutorials, and to understand opportunities for future tools that could help authors write them.

Given the overlap in topic and research questions, much of this guide is based on the guide by [MacLeod et al. for understanding authorship of programming screencasts](#).

Question	Answer
What prompted you to start writing programming tutorials?	
How do you decide to write a programming tutorial?	
Think about the last tutorial you wrote. What was the process?	
What tools or software do you use to make your tutorials?	
How long does it take?	
What's hard or annoying about writing programming tutorials?	
What parts of your process would you most recommend to other tutorial authors?	
(If they wrote a book:) How do the obstacles differ when you're writing a book?	
How did you decide these choices (e.g., example length, demos) were the right call? Any readings you can point us to? Studies with readers?	
Some of the activities of tutorial authoring we want to know more about: creating the sample application, dividing the code into snippets, managing multiple versions of the code, testing out the code, updating the code, formatting code, adding demos and visuals.	