

## Session 9: Interviewing 101

**Overview** Building a business like a scientist requires the gathering of evidence to validate or invalidate ideas. One of the most powerful tools for gathering evidence is through customer discovery interviewing.

- Key Points**
- ❖ Customer discovery interviewing is a fancy term referring to having a structured or planned conversation with people who fit your customer segment and might have the problem(s) you are trying to solve.
  - ❖ For initial customer discovery interviews, the script should have six distinct parts:
    1. Welcome
    2. Customer characteristics questions
    3. Exploration of customer experiences
    4. Customer-problem fit
    5. Exploration of customers' world view
    6. Wrap up and ask
  - ❖ Once you succeed in using customer discovery interviewing to confirm that there is in fact a segment of customers who have a big problem that needs a new solution, you'll be a lot closer to launching a successful venture.

- Discussion Questions**
1. What are the risks associated with asking customers to provide feedback your ideas and/or the problem you're trying to solve?
  2. How is this process similar to experiments you do in other science classes using the scientific method? How is it different?

**Additional Resources**

- [Steve Blank's vlog post "What is Customer Discovery?"](#)
- [Forbes article "Customer Discovery Starts With Empathy"](#)
- [VentureWell's Customer Interview Tips](#)

- Possible Assignments**
1. Make a script for your concept's customer discovery interview process, using the 6-steps provided.
  2. Make a list of places you could possibly find your customer segment and how you would go about getting the interview time with them.