

How to Prepare for a Job Interview

During your job search you will more than likely be called in for an interview at some point. Most companies use interviewing as a way of getting to know an applicant better and to gauge whether they are qualified for the job being applied for. It is important that you are well prepared for the interview. Usually employers will make their final decision during this session so it's imperative that you make a positive and lasting impression. There are a few ways you can prepare ahead of time so that you ace the interview and make yourself the prime candidate for the job.

Research the Company

Employers will be impressed if you come into an interview with knowledge of the company. Before the interview, check out the website of the company. Learn about the history, number of employees, and other facts that they may display on their website. You can throw these little quips in during the interview. The interviewer will be impressed that you took the time to learn more about the company and its founders before coming in for the interview.

Brush up on your Skills

If you have a degree in a specific field it is important that you stay up to date on the subject matter. For example, if you specialize in computer programming, then you may want to be prepared to sit down and answer questions about code, computer language and programming. Some places will even make you write a sample program during the interview. If you have a degree in Psychology, then you will probably be asked sample problems and situations related to Psychology and how you would handle them. Therefore, it is important that you are prepared to show off your knowledge.

Bring your Resume

The interviewer will most likely have a copy of your resume before you arrive, however, you may want to bring another copy with you. If you are interviewing for a teaching position within a school district, you will want to make sure to bring your teacher portfolio. Bring any other paperwork that you feel would benefit you during the interview session.

Practice

Ask a friend, parent or mentor to sit down with you and ask you sample interview questions. This will prepare you to answer questions on the spot. When the interviewer asks you questions, you need to think quick and come up with a good answer right away.

Popular questions that may be asked:

- "Why do you think you are a good candidate for this job?"
- "In what ways would you be an asset to this company?"
- "What are your career goals?"
- "Describe success in your own words."

Be on Time

There is nothing worse than showing up late for a job interview. Make sure you show up on time and prepared. If you have changed your mind about attending the interview, then be sure to call in advance and cancel. Be professional and be ready to put your best foot forward so that you will be the person they potentially hire.