

Job Interview Tips for Teens

Once through the door with a great application, the next step is the interview. No matter if its a first job interview or the tenth, here are some important pointers to keep in mind:

Dress Like You Mean Business

There's no need for most jobs to show up in suit but you do need to dress more like you're ready to go to work than to go to a concert. No jeans, no bare midriffs, no ripped shirts, or wild hair. This is the time to "blend in". Guys can generally succeed with a good pair of khakis and a dress shirt. Girls should keep the outfit simple, avoid showing too much skin, and go easy on makeup, jewelry and scents.

It's Showtime

Allow an extra fifteen to twenty minutes to get to any interview especially if your interview is in a location with heavy traffic or in an area you don't know well. If you're relying on public transportation, know the routes and schedules and expect delays. Arriving about 10 minutes prior to the interview lets the employer know you want the job!

Come Ready to Ask Questions

It's not only the employer who gets to ask questions during the interview, you can also be ready with four or five questions of your own.

What kinds of questions might be appropriate? Here are some suggestions:

- What do you think is the most important thing I need to know about this job?
- What kinds of opportunities might there be for me to learn new skills here?
- Is there anything else you need to know about me?
- Will I be trained on the job?

Write a Thank You Note After the Interview

Believe it or not, a thank you letter might get you the job. There are lots of applicants who have the same or better skills than you and probably several other applicants who gave a dazzling smile and great answers during the interview. But how many of those applicants will sit down and send a thank you note? Probably, very few. Most likely only one or two!

What do you say in a post-interview thank you note? You only need express three main ideas:

- Thank you for meeting with me.
- I am interested in working with your company.
- I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank note notes are best if handwritten but even an email note will help you keep your name in front of an employer.