

Job Interview Checklist

By Alex Strickland

- Things You Need To Do Before The Interview
 - Get a professionally written resume so your resume will stand out from all the others.
 - Submit a unique, well written cover letter with each resume, specific to that company.
 - Get advice from a professional on how to chose business attire appropriate for the position you're applying for.
 - Consult a hairstylist for a professional cut or style.
- Preparing Yourself For The Interview
 - Be prepared to discuss each item on your resume in detail.
 - Research the company you'll be interviewing with so you can answer common interview questions with answers that will be relative to their business.
 - Prepare yourself to answer tricky questions regarding gaps in your resume or your reason for leaving a previous job.
 - Prepare a list of relevant questions that show your interest in and knowledge of the company.
 - Conduct mock interviews with family and friends until you feel comfortable answering their questions.
 - Prepare a list of at least 3 personal references including their names, addresses and phone numbers.
 - Update your portfolio and make sure it's neat and organized.
- The Day Before The Interview
 - Make sure you know how to get to the interview location even if you have to make a test run the day before.
 - Make sure your interview clothes are clean, pressed and in good repair.
 - Get a good night's sleep.
- The Day Of The Interview
 - Bring extra resumes in case you're asked for additional copies.
 - Bring necessary documents like your social security card and driver's license.
 - Turn off your cellphone Or better yet, leave it in the car or at home.
 - Arrive at least 10 minutes early for your interview.

- Greet the receptionist with courtesy and introduce yourself.
- Greet your interviewer with a firm handshake and call him by name.
- Answer all questions honestly.
- No chewing gum or food during the interview.
- Don't discuss salary or benefits until you've been offered the position.
- Let the interviewer know that you're interested in the position.
- Ask when they plan to make a decision.
- Ask for the interviewer's business card so you'll have accurate contact information to follow-up on your interview.
- After The Interview
 - Send a Thank You note to your interviewer within 24 hours of the interview.
 - Make a follow-up phone call to the interviewer within one week and again the day before they plan to make a decision.