

# How to Ace Your Next Job Interview



# What We'll Cover

- - Concepts
- Module 3: Answering Common
  - **Interview Questions**

### • Module 1: Interview Mindset &

- Module 2: 6 Quick Tips to Interviewing
  - Like a Champ



# Module 1 Interview Mindset & Concepts



# (Just like with your resume) You Control Your Narrative

The only thing anybody ever knows about you is what **you** tell them.

You get to create your career story.You decide how to present yourself.You have the power.





## Insider Secret: They WANT you to be the one

Being a recruiter and/or hiring manager is a tough job! If you get all the way to the interview phase, they're rooting for you. They want you to be the right fit for the job, because then the search is over!

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# What Recruiters & Hiring Managers are Looking For

### **AUTONOMY & RESILIENCE**

Working remotely means you have to be able to set and stick to a schedule and get assignments and projects completed even when your boss isn't in the next room.

### **ADAPTABILITY & VERSATILITY**

Being able to change gears and adapt to shifting priorities in an ever-changing world is becoming increasingly important to employers.

### **REMOTE WORK SKILLS**

It may take some outside-the-box thinking to identify these, especially if you've never worked remotely, but it's definitely do-able - and worth it! .



# What ELSE they want

# A good fit and/or benefit

### to the company



Skills can be trained... Demonstrating your fit with the company culture, your passion for what they do, and a strong understanding of their market can make or break your success in the interview process.



# Module 2 6 Quick Tips to Interviewing Like a Champ



### **Face-to-Face Interview** (even virtual)

One of the most complex parts of the job search. Even though a it's technically all about you, it's not really all about

you.

### **SELL YOURSELF**

- Showcase your best value
- Fit your skills with the job

## **THINK QUICKLY**

- Answer questions on the fly

### **PERFORM UNDER PRESSURE**

• Elaborate thoughtfully on unexpected topics

• Be at your best, both professionally and interpersonally



### Company

- Website • News outlets • Google search

### **Position**

- Job listing / description • Other similar listings

### Culture

- About page • Glassdoor

### Salary

- About page • Glassdoor

Interviewer(s) • LinkedIn

# **Tip #**1 Research



# Tip #2 Be Likeable

### **SMILE**

Use warm facial features and smile a lot. This is scientifically proven to make you more likeable.

# PRETEND THEY'RE SOMEONE YOU LIKE

Think of someone you really like (or even jus the feeling you get when you see someone you relaly like) and try to emulate that feeling. This will help your smile come more easily and make your voice more warm, all of which lend to likeability.



# **Tip #3 Eye Contact**

### More likeable

- Website • News outlets • Google search

### **More Trustworthy** • Open • Believable

**Builds connection** • Fundamental to human engagement



Tip #4 Be Nice to Everyone

### YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S WHO

Many job interviews have been blundered by treating someone in the process poorly. You never know who is who or what waight their opinion holds. Always be kind.



# **Tip #5 Use Mirroring**

**Subconscious** 

 Feel more comfortable because of similarities observed through body language

**Subtle** 

# • Shows similarities

## **Maintain rapport**

### • Don't mimic • Subtly alter



# Tip #6 Follow Up!

## #1 MOST OVERLOOKED ETIQUETTE TIP

Writing a thank-you letter.

Most HR professionals will tell you that any candidate who sends a thank-you letter gets first consideration.

So, if you are looking to give yourself an advantage above the other job applicants, then be sure to follow up your interview by writing a letter showing your genuine appreciation for the opportunity.



# Bonus Tip #7

# **Be Prepared**





## RESEARCH

This really does have a huge affect on job search succes!

## **BRING RELEVANT MATERIALS**

Have a portfolio with work examples, awards, and any relevant documents that will demonstrate your professional history, accomplishments, and worth. This will demonstrate organization and pride in your work.

## **USE STORIES**

Use appropriate stories from your professional past to demonstrate your skills. Use relatable situations and vivid details to bring the interviewer into your world.



# Module 3 Answering Top 10 Common Interview Questions



# Tell me about yourself.

## **MOST COMMON OPENER**

Be ready for it. Prep a general answer, then modify for each job / interview.

## **PROFESSIONAL, NOT PERSONAL**

Avoid age, marital status, religion, etc.

### **3-4 POINTS**

3 or 4 important things about your professional life that will showcase positivity. Name a few of your best attributes or an accomplishments you're proud of. This is a great time to utilize part or all of your 'elevator pitch.'







or 'Why do you want to work for us?'Similar, but slightly different

Show off what you knowFrom your research or connections

Personal Connection
From childhood or school or family, etc.

Show you're a good fitFor the company and/or position

# Why are you interested in this position?



# What is your greatest strength / weakness?

## **STRENGTH: YOUR TIME TO SHINE**

It's not boastful to talk about your strengths and accomplishments. How else will they know?

## WEAKNESS: YOUR TIME TO SHOW ACCOUNTABILITY

Eveeryone makes mistakes. How you learn from them is key.

Consider how you've learned from your weaknesses or how you've adapted a weakness into a strength.







Highlight strengths and positive attributesAlways showcasing your best

Emphasize desire to contribute
Stability and success for the company

Customise your answer
To that company / industry whenever possible

# What are your short-/ long-term goals?



# What is one of your greatest accomplishments / failures?

# WHY THEY ASK THIS

With this questions, the interviewer is trying to get a feel for where your priorities lie and what you value.

### **USE STORIES**

Have a few different anecdotes/stories prepared that fit well with the job and company. This makes your answer much more relatable and believable.

### **SHOW ALIGNMENT**

With company culture, values, goals, etc.







# Why did/do you want to leave your current/most recent position?

**Be (mostly) honest** • But keep things positive

No trash talking • Even if your last job wast terrible, avoid too much negativity • They are judging your character



# Can you explain the gap in your employment?

## **EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT**

Take time to plan out your answer carefully.

### **STRIVE FOR HONESTY**

But avoid anything that could put you in a negative light.

# **GET CREATIVE**

If you're struggling for an answer that won't put you at a disadvantage, you can explain how you were taking time for personal reflection and growth, but you'll need a few good examples of your findings.







Your time to shine! • Don't hold back

**Show alignment**  Make sure they know WHY you're a good fit

**Unique value proposition** • Reflect onyourself as an employee and really try to explain what makes you unique.

# What can you offer us over your competition?







# How do you handle conflicts?

## **SOLUTION ORIENTED**

Customer satisfaction and general harmony amongst staff are two VERY important factors in company success.

## COMMUNICATION AND LISTENING

These should always play heavily into your conflict resolution.

### **BE SPECIFIC**

Tell a story about a specific situation in which you handled conflict well. This will be much more powerful than speaking in generalities.









**Use your research** • To help demonstrate your knowledge of company goals/struggles and explain how you would help

**Show ambition** 

'We' language

# What would you like to accomplish in your first 30/60/90 days?

# On what you'd like to accomplish

# • Use wording that assumes yourself already in the role









# QUESTIONS? Visit the CAREER FAIR **CAREER CENTER**

FAQs Job Search Help Workshop & Homework Content





