



How To Make a Great First Impression In a Job Interview

The first few minutes of a job interview are critically important for creating a good first impression. In fact, the first 30 seconds can make or break you. Interviewers gather clues about you based on the way you look, how you shake hands, the eye contact you make and the first words that come out of your mouth. It pays to have a strategy for creating a great first impression every time you interview. Here are a few tips for starting your interview off on the right foot.

1. Dress for the White House. Job Seekers often make the mistake of dressing too casual for job interviews. Never dress business casual for a job interview. Your suit should be classic in style and conservative in color. Women should not wear low necklines or short skirts. Avoid all perfumes and after shave lotions. The way you dress announces to the interviewer how important you see their company.
2. Your handshake tells all. Your interview will read your character in your handshake. They will decide how honest you are by the way you shake their hand. A limp handshake reveals lack of interest. An aggressive handshake gives the impression of an overly eager or desperate candidate. A tip of the fingers shake says lack of sincerity. Sweaty palms show fear. The best way to practice is to go to some kind of social event where you will have the opportunity to meet new people.
3. Mirror your interviewer. The quickest way to connect with your interviewer is to mirror their speaking style. If they speak fast, you speak fast. If they have a slow manner, you should too. Match the level of detail that your interview speaks with. You must listen very carefully to your interviewer to discover their level of detail in communicating.

It is true that you have one opportunity to make a first impression. You may have to interview with several people. Do not get lax in your first impression strategy. Use these tips for each and every person you interview with and you will be on your way to your next best career opportunity.

~ Deborah Walker

“You have to love a nation that celebrates its Independence every July 4th not with a parade of guns, tanks and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten but it is patriotism.”

Erma Bombeck



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