

The College Interview: the Basics

- A college interview is a chance to show that you're more than just test scores and grades. It's an exchange of information—you learn about the college and the college learns about you. It can last anywhere from 30-60 minutes.
- The interview is just one of many factors in the admissions decision. Admissions directors usually say that the interview is rarely the deciding one. Still, if a borderline student turns out to be impressive, the interviewer has the authority to write a letter in support.

The College Interview: why should I ask for a college interview anyway?

- Most colleges don't require an interview; however, there are many benefits to meeting face-to-face with an admissions officer.
- Although your college application shows colleges your grades and extracurricular activities, students often feel that their college applications can't possibly convey their shining personalities to colleges. An interview is especially helpful in letting your personality shine through.
- You may have special questions about a certain university, and the college interview is a great time to ask any questions you may have about the college.

Women: What do I wear to a college interview?

- In most cases, women should dress in business attire, which includes a nice blouse and a skirt or a pair of dress pants for girls.
- The best plan is to wear clothes that are comfortable and make you feel confident.
- Makeup, nails, and jewelry should be very low-key.
- Do not put on a lot of perfume!!
- Keep your hair out of your face and try to resist the urge to play with your hair during your interview!

Men: What do I wear to a college interview?

- Men should wear a nice collared shirt, nice slacks, a tie, and a dress shoes to a college interview.
- The best plan is to wear clothes that are comfortable and make you feel confident!
- **TRY TO AVOID WEARING SNEAKERS TO AN INTERVIEW!**

What's wrong with just wearing a t-shirt and shorts?

- You want to show interviewers that you care about the school enough to go the extra mile to look nice.
- When people dress in business attire, they tend to act and feel more professional and more mature.
- If you're like most teens, you like to express yourself through your clothing and you *don't like people telling you how to dress. That's okay--you're young, fun, and interesting. But part of preparing for adulthood is realizing that there is a time and a place for all things.*

What is proper etiquette for a college interview?

DO:

- Look the interviewer in the eye
- use the interviewer's name
- shake hands firmly
- and project energy and interest (CollegeBoard)

DO NOT:

- Be late
- Memorize speeches—sound natural and conversational
- Ask questions covered by the college catalog
- Chew gum

Interview tips continued

Do Not

- Swear or use too much slang
- Be arrogant—there's a fine line between being confident and boasting
- Lie—it will come back to haunt you
- Respond with only yes or no answers
- Tell the school it's your safety
- Bring a parent into the interview
- Refuse an interview—this is usually noted

Common Questions Asked

The questions asked by interviewers generally fall into *three* main categories...

Tell Me About Yourself!

1) Hobbies/Extracurricular Interests

- Sports, Clubs, Reading, Scrapbooking, Hiking, Babysitting, Jobs, Summer Trips, Music, etc.



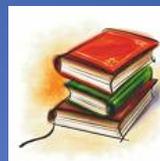
Talk about the activities that you really *enjoy* doing.

Tell Me About Yourself! (cont.)

2) Favorite/Least Favorite Subjects

- *What is your favorite subject?*

(ex: I love English!)



- *Why?*

(ex: I love reading and writing; I feel like it pushes me to be a better student, etc.)

- *What is your least favorite subject?*

(ex: I hate Chemistry!)



- *Why?*

(ex: Because math-related subjects have always come hard to me, and I don't easily understand these types of concepts)

Tell Me About Yourself (cont.)

3) Strengths/Weaknesses

Strengths: Perseverance, Integrity, Ambition, Hardworking, etc.

Weaknesses: Be honest 😊 Don't say things like "I'm a perfectionist". I talked about how I get stressed out easily, and how my time management skills could use some improvement.

Our School!

1) Why do you want to attend this school?

- Academics, Diversity, Resources, Location etc.

2) What can you contribute to our school?

- How will you get involved and make this school a better place?



3) Do you have any questions for me?

- Special Academic Programs, Study Abroad, etc.
- Come prepared with 2 or 3 questions: It helps show your interest.

Random Questions!

For Example:

- What's your favorite book?
- Choose three words to best describe yourself.
- Who is your greatest role model?

Remember to always just be yourself! Don't try to say things that aren't really true just to impress the admissions officers; always be honest with yourself and who you are.