

Exploring Leadership

COMMUNICATION: INTERVIEW SKILLS

Effective interviewing skills are essential in the world today. These skills can earn a job, a position in student government, or a scholarship and they can also help in day-to-day interactions.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- What is a positive way to respond to an unexpected question?
- What do you think interviewers wish to see in a candidate?

This exercise will help participants develop and practice skills to ace an interview. One can never be too prepared for an interview, so this activity will practice possible scenarios and help participants feel ready.

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Split participants into pairs. Participants will practice responding to questions quickly and professionally. Within each partnership, one will ask questions, and the other will answer.

FACILITATION TIPS:

- Have a volunteer demonstrate one or two questions they excelled at.
- Remind participants of their non-verbal cues, and their body language: sit up straight, make eye contact, look pleasant, etc.
- Create a list of tips and tricks identified by the group.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Practice quick thinking.
- Understand professionalism.
- Prepare for common interview questions.
- Identify good interview skills.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Access to media device to share online video : <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6qgleu>
- Copies of questions (See Appendices A,B)

- The goal is to answer as many questions as possible in 3 min. Can they “keep their cool?” Every question answered is a point for their pair. If the facilitator catches a participant losing composure, 5 points will be deducted.
- After three minutes, pairs will switch roles to allow everyone a chance as interviewer and interviewee.
- The new interviewer continues where their partner left off, but start over if all questions have been asked. After everyone has had a chance to answer questions, teams add up their points.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Talk about what happened during the activity:

- What was challenging about this activity?
- What worked best when communicating non-verbally?
- What did you learn about the importance of Non-verbal Communication?
- If you were to do it again, how would you change your technique?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

Discussion Questions:

- When do you see yourself using this information next?
- How are these skills used in daily life?
- What are 1-2 skills you feel you can work on?
- What other characteristics and skills that an employer may be looking for?
- How can you develop these skills?



CONCLUSION:

Interviews can be crucial to taking the next step in your life path. Take the time to fine tune your skills through practice. The confidence you develop will show in your interview.

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REFERENCES

- <https://www.greatgroupgames.com/interview-game>
- Alternative Attention Getter: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6qgleu>



APPENDIX A:

1. What is your most prized possession?
2. What is the worst movie you've ever seen?
3. What did you want to be when you were growing up?
4. What would be your dream vacation? Where would you go and what would you do?
5. What is your favorite color?
6. What is your favorite dish?
7. How many children do you want to have?
8. What is your favorite ice cream flavor?
9. What was your favorite toy when you were a kid?
10. If you were an animal, what animal would you be?
11. If you were to change your name, what would it be?
12. Who is your role model and what characteristics do they have that you wish to develop?
13. What is your favorite sport to play?
14. What is your favorite sport to watch?
15. If you could have any super power, what would it be?
16. If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?
17. If you could choose any job you wanted (regardless of skill) what would it be?
18. What is your most over-used word?
19. What is your biggest pet-peeve?
20. What does success look like to you?
21. Favorite drink?
22. Last book you read?
23. Favorite song at the moment?
24. If someone gave you a \$1,000 to spend at any store, what store would you choose?
25. What is your favorite smell?
26. What was your first job?
27. Where did you grow up?
28. What do you love most about your favorite season?
29. Goal you would like to achieve this year?
30. What is one thing you are afraid of?
31. What is your dream car?
32. What is your worst habit?
33. Who is your celebrity crush?

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APPENDIX B:

34. What is one thing you spend too much money on?
35. Where is your favorite place to eat?
36. If had to be stranded on an island and could bring two things, what would they be and why would you want those items?
37. Favorite breakfast food?
38. What is one food you don't like/can't stand?
39. Where did you go to high school?
40. What was your favorite thing about high school?
41. What was your favorite thing about college?
42. Favorite hangout spot in college?
43. What do you like on your pizza?
44. What characteristics do you look for in friends?
45. Favorite type of movie (romantic, comedy, action...) do you enjoy?
46. Where is the farthest place (city/place/country) you've traveled?
47. What is your middle name?
48. Do you like to call or text more?
49. What is the last thing you spent money on?
50. What do you look forward to in the next 3 months?
51. Describe your life in one word:
52. If you were King for a day, what would you change about the world and why?
53. Where do you go to clear your head?
54. What is the strangest thing you've ever eaten?
55. If you were to be famous, what would you want it to be for?
56. What was your favorite subject in elementary school?
57. What was your least favorite subject in elementary school?
58. If you were allowed to stop doing one chore, what would it be?
59. If you could invite three famous people to your house for dinner, who would they be?
60. If you were to go back to a time in history to live, what time period would you choose and why that time period?
61. Favorite band/musician?
62. What kind of shoes do you usually wear?
63. Do you play any instruments, if so, what?
64. What's your first thought when you wake up in the morning?
65. How many kids would you want to have?
66. If you could get rid of one thing in society/nature, what would it be?

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