



Exploring Leadership

COMMUNICATION: INTERVIEW SKILLS

Interview skills aren't just about landing a job—they're about presenting your best self in any situation. Whether it's a student council election, a scholarship panel, or a casual conversation, communicating effectively transforms opportunities. With preparation and practice, you can handle interviews—and life's surprises—with confidence. Presenting yourself with poise and clarity opens doors to possibilities you may not have imagined.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

Imagine you're in an interview, and they ask you a question you didn't expect. How do you handle it? What's the best way to keep your cool and respond with confidence?

By practicing, you'll learn to stay composed, think quickly, and respond confidently. Every moment of preparation is a chance to grow and improve. The more you rehearse, the more natural and polished your responses will feel when it matters most. With consistent practice, even unexpected questions can shift from intimidating challenges to exciting opportunities to shine.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Understand and practice professionalism in interviews.
- Prepare for common interview questions with confidence.
- Identify and develop effective interview skills.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Copies of prepared interview questions for each pair (see Appendix A)
- Timer or stopwatch
- Pens or pencils
- A whiteboard or large notepad to list interview tips and tricks

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Get ready to refine your interview skills by responding quickly and professionally to unexpected questions in a fun, timed challenge.

FACILITATION TIPS:

- Model one or two examples of effective responses to tricky questions before starting, to give participants a clear idea of what success looks like.
- Encourage participants to use positive body language, like sitting up straight, maintaining eye contact, and smiling, to boost confidence and professionalism.
- Pair participants and decide who will ask the questions first.
- Set a timer for 3 minutes. The goal is to answer as many questions as possible while staying composed.
- Each answered question earns the pair a point. If the facilitator observes a participant losing composure, deduct 5 points.
- After 3 minutes, switch roles so both partners get a chance to ask and answer questions.
- The new interviewer picks up where their partner left off or starts over if all the questions have been answered.
- Once everyone has had a turn, tally up the points for each pair.
- Wrap up by creating a collaborative list of interview tips and tricks on the whiteboard or large notepad.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What was the most challenging part of answering questions during the activity?
- How did your body language or tone of voice impact your performance?
- Which skills or techniques do you feel most confident about after this activity?
- How can you use what you learned today to prepare for your next real-life interview?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- When do you think you'll use these interview skills next?
- How do these skills apply to daily interactions outside of interviews?
- What are two specific skills or areas you want to improve?
- What characteristics or skills do you think employers value most in candidates?
- What steps can you take to develop those skills further?



CONCLUSION:

The skills you build today will take you far beyond the interview room. Interviews are opportunities to connect, share your story, and leave a lasting impression. By practicing and refining these skills, you're not just preparing for one conversation—you're laying the foundation for lifelong success. Whether it's pursuing a dream job, building meaningful relationships, or stepping into leadership roles, your ability to present yourself with confidence makes all the difference. Take the time to practice, grow, and show the world what you're capable of achieving.

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REFERENCES

- Interview Game by Great Group Games: <https://www.greatgroupgames.com/interview-game>
- Alternative Attention Getter: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6qggleu> (4:06 minutes)



APPENDIX A:

1. What is your most prized possession?
2. What is the worst movie you've ever seen, and why?
3. What did you want to be when you were growing up?
4. Describe your dream vacation. Where would you go, and what would you do?
5. What is your favorite color?
6. What's your go-to dish when you want to treat yourself?
7. How many children would you like to have?
8. What is your favorite ice cream flavor?
9. What was your favorite toy as a child?
10. If you could be any animal, which would you choose and why?
11. If you had to pick a new name, what would it be?
12. Who is your role model, and what qualities do you admire about them?
13. What is your favorite sport to play?
14. What is your favorite sport to watch?
15. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
16. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
17. If you could choose any job, what would it be?
18. What is the most overused word or phrase you say?
19. What's your biggest pet peeve?
20. How do you personally define success?
21. What is your favorite drink?
22. What's the last book you read or movie you watched?
23. What is your favorite song right now?
24. If you had \$1,000 to spend in one store, which store would you choose?
25. What is your favorite smell in the world?
26. Where did you grow up, and what's your favorite memory from there?
27. What's your dream car?
28. What was your very first job?
29. What do you love most about your favorite season?
30. What is one goal you'd like to achieve this year?
31. What's something you're afraid of?
32. If you were stranded on an island, which two items would you bring and why?
33. What's your favorite breakfast food?
34. If you could learn any new skill, what would it be?
35. What is your favorite way to help others?



APPENDIX A (CONTINUED):

36. What's your favorite pizza topping or combination?
37. What qualities do you value most in a friend?
38. What's your favorite type of movie to watch (comedy, action, drama, etc.)?
39. What's the farthest place you've traveled?
40. What is your middle name?
41. Do you prefer texting or calling? Why?
42. What's the last thing you spent money on?
43. What are you most looking forward to in the next three months?
44. If you had to describe your life in one word, what would it be?
45. If you were King or Queen for a day, what would you change about the world?
46. Where do you go when you need to clear your head?
47. What is the strangest or most unusual food you've ever tried?
48. If you became famous, what would you want to be known for?
49. What was your favorite subject in elementary school?
50. What was your least favorite subject in elementary school?
51. If you could stop doing one chore forever, which would it be?
52. If you could invite three famous people to dinner, who would they be?
53. If you could live in any historical period, which one would it be and why?
54. Who's your favorite musician or band?
55. What kind of shoes do you wear most often?
56. Do you play any musical instruments? If so, which ones?
57. What's your first thought when you wake up in the morning?
58. How many children would you like to have?
59. If you could eliminate one thing from society or nature, what would it be?
60. What is your favorite place to eat?
61. What's one thing you tend to spend too much money on?
62. What's a habit you'd like to improve or change?
63. What do you love most about your family?
64. If you could be any character in a movie or book, who would you choose?
65. What's one thing you're incredibly passionate about?
66. What's your favorite way to spend a lazy afternoon?
67. Is there any food you absolutely can't stand?
68. Where did you go to high school, and what was your favorite thing about it?
69. What is something you are really good at?
70. What makes you laugh the most?