

"ACING THE INTERVIEW"

Adapted from *Seventeen's Guide to Getting Into College*

Many schools include an interview as part of their application process. Sometimes these are on-campus interviews conducted by admissions officers or faculty members; many schools recruit alumni volunteers to interview prospective applicants in local areas. The purpose of the interview is twofold: it's just as much about giving you the opportunity to ask about the interviewer's college experience as about giving the college an impression of who you are. Be sure to find out if interviews are part of the admissions process at the schools you're applying to and when you should expect to be contacted for one.

Prepare for the college interview just as you would for a job interview. Do your research about the school so you can ask your interviewer questions that demonstrate you've put some thought into applying. Following are a list of questions you may get asked in a college admissions interview. If you prepare an answer for each of these, chances are you'll be able to handle any question that comes your way. Practice answering these questions with a friend or family member. If you've gone over your answers out loud, you'll be much more comfortable come interview day.

1. Why are you interested in this school?
2. What classes do you like best?
3. What do you plan to study in college?
4. What is one of your favorite books, movies, shows, or songs from the past year?
5. How would your peers describe you and your personality?
6. How did you spend the past couple of summers?
7. What activities take up your time; which is the most enjoyable?
8. How do you see yourself having an impact on a college campus?
9. Where do you see yourself in five years? Ten years?
10. What makes you stand out in your school community?
11. How do you feel you've changed since beginning high school?
12. What is your greatest strength? Your greatest weakness?
13. If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be?
14. What is your most significant accomplishment?
15. Who do you want to be most proud of you and why?

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR INTERVIEWER

1. Why did you decide to attend your school?
2. What did you like most and least about your college experience?
3. How has your education helped you reach your career goals?
4. What kinds of students do you think benefit most from the educational experience offered at your school?
5. Do you have any advice to offer me?