# Interviewing Skills

#### **Equipment for Living:**

Elements of a Successful Geology Job Quest

# Introduction

You're on the hunt for a new geology job, and – wonder of wonders – you've landed an interview. What should you do, not just to make yourself ready for that encounter, but to make yourself as attractive a job candidate as possible?

## Align Your Experience with Employer Needs

#### Ask questions

Which plays? Which formations? Kinds of goals?

Responsibilities?

#### Respond

Analogous locations

Related Skills & Software mastered

Your ideas developed while interning or doing projects





### Your Geology / Petroleum Experience



- List petroleum geology related academic projects.
- Describe all internships and include bullet points of lessons learned.
- Discuss software you are familiar with.
- Include geophysics and engineering experience.



# Why Geology Matters in an Engineering & Geophysics Team

- The costs of not understanding the rocks can be high Lithology matters -- formation damage, drilling and completion fluids.
- Fractures matter.
- Faults matter.
- Geochemistry and fingerprinting.
- Basins and environments.





### **Ideas about the Future**



- Take the time to put together a mission and vision statement.
- Add it to your resume.

# Express Ideas about New Trends

#### and Future Possibilities

- Plays
- Technologies
- Locations
- Approaches



# Review

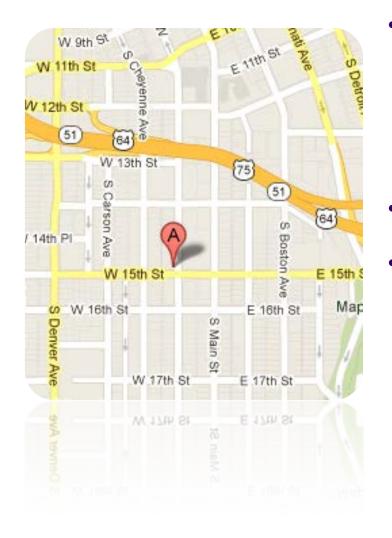
#### Of the Basics

## **Preparing for a Job Interview**

- Prior To The Interview
- First Impressions
- Your Attire
- Overcoming Interview Anxiety
- The Interview: Setting the Stage
- Interview Questions
- Post Interview Activities
- The Job Offer
- Interview Resources



### **Prior to the Interview**



- **Do your homework**. Review the company's website, annual reports, & press releases.
- Develop questions.
  - Logistics. Review directions to the interview location. <u>maps.google.com</u> <u>www.mapquest.com</u>



#### **Prior to the Interview**

- **Rehearse.** Prior to your interview, anticipate questions, prepare potential answers.
- Contact your references.
   Select three reliable people who are willing to serve as your professional references.





#### **First Impressions**



- First impressions matter!
- Here is what your interviewers will be considering:
  - Professional appearance
    - Posture and poise
    - Smile and agreeable demeanor

### **First Impressions**

- Ability to express yourself clearly
- Listening skills
- Responding to the question directly and succinctly



#### **Your Professional Attire**

- Better too formal than too informal
  - Cover body art
- Discreet jewelry
- Conservative footwear



#### **What NOT To Wear**







#### **What To Wear**





#### **Overcoming Interview Jitters**

- **Be well prepared.** It will boost your confidence and lower your nervousness.
- **Draft answers** to common interview questions and practice speaking them out loud.





#### **Overcoming Interview Jitters**

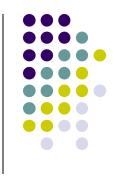
Nervous during the interview?

- Take a deep breath and focus on the interview questions.
- Don't rush through your answers or make unqualified statements.
- Connect answers together as if it were a puzzle, interlocking what is important.



- Arrive early Be sure to arrive around fifteen minutes before the interview.
- Treat everyone with respect You never know who is involved in the recruitment process. The job interview is not confined to the meeting room.







 Bring necessary documentation – Make sure to bring along documents that you will need for the interview. You may need extra copies of your resume and you may need a government-issued ID.

#### PASSPORT



United States of America

- \* Drivers License
- \* Social Security Card
- \* Passport

- Sell yourself Listen to their needs, think of ways you can meet them, and reassure that you give your 100%. Use good body language.
  - Express enthusiasm for the job and the related industry – Keep examples of your accomplishments in mind, and listen and ask about company.









- **Don't focus on the salary** – The initial review is not the time to discuss it.
- Keep it positive Do not discuss negatives unless you are asked.

- Answer questions as directly as possible – It is not necessary to go into detail, though.
- Ask questions Think of questions you would like to ask ahead of time. It shows interest in the company.
- Don't be a "no show" If you are going to cancel, let them know.





Reasons for leaving – Carefully
 choose your words when responding.

#### How to respond:

\* **Fired** – Don't use the term fired or

terminated. Find a phrase that sounds

neutral such as "involuntary separation."

 \* Quit – If you quit your job, be prepared to offer an explanation.
 Avoid saying anything negative.



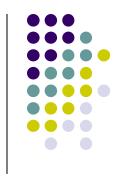
- Laid off If you were laid off from a job due to no fault of your own, tell the employer the circumstances.
- Quit for a better job This response includes: leaving for advancement potential, leaving for a better work environment, or leaving for a career change.
- Quit to move to another area You may have moved to be nearer to your family or to an area with greater economic potential.



- Quit to attend school If you use this reason, the education listed on your application and/or resume must agree.
- Job gaps If you have job gaps in your employment history, be sure to think of positive ways you were spending your time between jobs.



**If asked about salary requirements** – It's best to respond with "negotiable" or "I'm flexible." This is not the time to talk about salary.



- Traditional questions A series of questions that has straight forward answers, often about your experience, training, etc.
- Behavioral questions Require you to contemplate and develop a contemplative answer that shows your decision-making skills, leadership, and ability to direct yourself and work in a team.



Philosophical questions

 Designed to gain
 insights into your worldview and into your values.



#### **Post Interview**

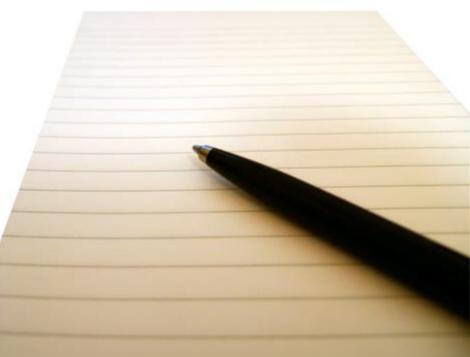


- Follow Up After the interview, don't forget to send a friendly email *thanking the interviewer for his or her time* and consideration, as well as restating your interest and commitment to the position.
- If you don't hear anything after one week, you may establish contact to politely inquire when they will be making a final decision.
   Do not keep bothering or wasting your time, or most importantly, their time if no reply.

# The Job Offer

#### What to do when they offer you the job?

- Be enthusiastic and professional
- Ask for the offer in writing
- How long have you got to decide?
- Get all the details
- If confident, renegotiate
- Give them your answer
- Enjoy your first day!





# Quiz

What elements do you know of a successful Job Quest?

https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-

school/story.php?title=interviewing-skills\_2



#### **References**

#### Good Luck!



http://advancingwomen.com/awl/Vol32\_2012/The%20e ffect%20of%20stereotype%20threat%20on%20the%20 interview%20performance%20of%20women.pdf

http://jobsearch.about.com/od/interviewquestionsanswe rs/a/interviewquest.htm

http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2013/01/11 /how-to-ace-the-50-most-common-interview-questions/

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