

ACING THE INTERVIEW



KEYS TO SUCCESS

BE AUTHENTIC.

The interview is a conversation, so be your genuine best self and have fun.

ELABORATE.

What are your interests and strengths? Share and give specific examples. Prior to your interview, reflect. Be excited to answer the question, "Who am I?"

BE PREPARED & CURIOUS.

Be ready to exchange information about yourself and your interest in the college. Ask thoughtful questions throughout the interview as they arise.

TOP 10 TIPS FOR A STRONG INTERVIEW

- 1 Be prompt.** Plan to arrive early, allowing time for traffic, finding the location, and completing any paperwork.
- 2 Be courteous.** Offer a firm handshake. Look your interviewer in the eye. Sit up straight and don't fidget. Turn off your phone and put it away.
- 3 Do your homework.** Before the interview, read the news to be informed about the world. Ask your EA college counselor to arrange a mock interview to practice. Research the college and jot down your questions beforehand. Refrain from asking easily-answerable questions such as the size of the student body or, "Is my intended major good?"
- 4 Come prepared to exchange information.** Bring your resume to share with your interviewer. Be ready to talk about what books, classes, and activities you enjoy the most.
- 5 Brag.** Expand on your accomplishments, interests, and strengths. Share examples. Be specific.
- 6 Listen.** Just as important as your ability to share information about yourself, your attentive listening demonstrates another important communication skill.
- 7 Be honest.** Explain your weak areas or growth opportunities and discuss what you have learned to overcome them. Remember, no one is perfect.
- 8 Elaborate.** Assume your interviewer knows very little about you. They most likely haven't read your application and know little more than which high school you attend.
- 9 Remember to breathe.** It's okay to pause and compose your response after being asked a question. Smile and relax. Take the interview seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously.
- 10 Follow up.** After the interview, send a thank you note or email to your interviewer. Share your experience and what you learned in the interview that further excites you about the school.

Interviewing is one of the most powerful ways to show a school who you are, and the best way to ace your interview is to prepare. Reach out to your EA college counselor to brush up on your skills with a mock interview, or to talk about the importance of interviewing at your schools of interest. This will make you feel much more comfortable walking into the actual interview!

Q&A:

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HEAR ON YOUR INTERVIEW

Tell me about yourself.

How did you hear about us? Why are you interested in us?

What other colleges are you considering? *You are under no obligation to answer this question, and we recommend you don't. Consider answering: "I'm looking at an array of schools with outstanding film programs," or "I'm considering liberal arts colleges in the Northeast." You'll get this question most frequently from alumni interviewers.*

What is your favorite academic subject? What is your least favorite? Why?

Do you have a specific major or career plan? How did you decide that? *State what your interests are (if you know) and that you hope to explore them further in college. Don't be afraid of being undecided.*

Tell me about your high school.

What activities do you enjoy most?

Do you have any leadership roles? What are they, and what type of leader are you?

What books have you recently read outside of school?

How have you spent your summers? (Job, hobby, volunteering, traveling)

How do you give back to your community?

What contributions (activities, clubs, etc.) will you make to your college during your four years?

What is your role in your community? Your family? Your friend group?

Have you ever failed or struggled? What did you learn about yourself?

What event (or person or teacher) has had the greatest impact on you?

How do you see yourself getting involved in our school?

LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Availability: Not all schools offer interviews. Check to see whether the interview is required, recommended, encouraged, or not offered. Then, look for interview opportunities on the admission website and schedule well in advance.

Timeline: Understand the timeline of interview opportunities at your schools of interest. Interviews are generally available from spring of junior year through winter of senior year. Some schools will contact you after your application is submitted; some will expect you to proactively schedule your interview prior to the application deadline.

Scholarship Requirements: Is an interview required for a merit or leadership scholarship? Do your homework and find out. Be proactive.

Interview Format: Will the interview be in person or virtual? Will an admissions representative, current student, or alum conduct the interview? How long will the interview be? Don't assume a 90-minute interview is better than a 30-minute interview.

KEEP IN MIND:

Always take the interview. If an interview is offered, take advantage of the opportunity. Not only are you demonstrating your enthusiasm and interest for the college, you are getting excellent practice for a life skill.

Your interviewer wants to get to know you! They are not trying to stump or trick you. A good interviewer wants you to feel comfortable and find commonalities.

Don't be alarmed if your interviewer takes notes. They are jotting down information to help them remember you. Equally, feel comfortable bringing your own notebook to quickly jot down something you want to remember.

REACH OUT.

The EA College Counseling team is always here to help. If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to reach out to your EA college counselor!