

# University/College Interviews

Practice Questions and Strategies

With Terry Kisling

# Interviewing for your future



# Who are you?



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# Why is a university/college interview important?

- An interview is a chance for you to meet with someone who represents the college.
- It's a great way to show your interest in the college.
- To start a relationship with people there and to show what you're all about.

# Questions about your match with a university/college.

- Why do you want to attend our college?
- What can you contribute to our college campus?
- Why they ask: They want to know that you're really interested in their college. They also want to know what you can bring to the campus.

# Your answer strategy: college-match questions.

- Talk about what you've learned about the college and why you feel it's the right place for you.
- Remember that you have to research a college ahead of time to answer this type of question well.
- Discuss your extracurricular activities and achievements that show your character.

# Questions about your personality

- What three adjectives best describe you?
  - What are your strengths ?
  - What are your weaknesses?
  - How would you Determine Success?
- Why they ask: They want to see that you can think and speak about yourself.



# Your answer strategy: personality questions

- Give examples of how your chosen adjectives describe you.
- Talk about how you've used your strengths to accomplish something.
- Talk about how you overcome your weaknesses.
- Success for me is not giving up and overcoming obstacles. (give example)

# Questions about activities, interests and goals

- What activities do you find most rewarding?
  - What is your favourite book?
  - Who is your role model?
  - How can our university meet your goals?
- Why they ask: They want to get to know you better and learn about what's important to you.

# Your answer strategy: interests questions

- Why are those activities the most rewarding?
- Why is a book your favorite?
- If you have a **Role model** in mind, talk about what you have learned from them?
- Discuss how you think college can help you meet your goals.
- Be sincere and honest in your answer — don't say things just to impress the interviewer.

# Wide-ranging questions

- If you had a thousand dollars to give away, what would you do with it?
- What's your opinion on the discrimination in the work force. (or another topic in the news)?
- If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be?
- Why they ask: They want to see that you are informed and curious and a careful thinker.

# Your answer strategy: broader questions

- Stay up-to-date on news and current events.
- Do you have strong opinions on certain issues?
- Can you explain your position?
- Spell out your system of values to yourself and think about how you apply it.

# More college interview tips

- Have a conversation. Don't try to memorize a script.
- Ask questions. Do express your interest in the college.
- Be yourself. Don't try to answer questions based on what you think the interviewer wants to hear.
- Prepare. Do practice interviews with friends or family. Take turns asking questions.

# What now?

## What to Do Before and After Your College Interview

# Before the interview.

- Make an interview appointment with one of the colleges you want to attend.
- Mark the date and time on your calendar.
- Research the college by checking out its website, brochure and course catalog.
- Make notes about why you want to attend this college.
- Make notes about your academic background and high school experiences.
- Make notes about your life outside the classroom, including activities, community service and hobbies.
- Get familiar with common interview questions and do some practice interviews with a friend or family member. Take turns being the interviewee and the interviewer.
- Prepare questions about the school to ask the interviewer.
- Get directions to the interview. ( if necessary )
- Choose appropriate clothes to wear for the interview.
- Gather documents you might need, such as test scores and your school transcript.



# After the interview

- Make notes about the interview.
- File away any business cards/name cards with contact information that the interviewer and other admission staff offer.
- Send a thank-you note to the interviewer.  
Thank the person for his or her time and refer to something specific we discussed.

# Let's Get Started.

- Make an appointment and be on time.
- Look over the questions provided.
- Come with your questions which you want to discuss.
- If you have to cancel your appointment email me the night before. [terry.rk@fis.edu.sg](mailto:terry.rk@fis.edu.sg)
- Filming of your interviews.

*Thank  
you*

