



Interviewing with Panache

You never get a second chance to make a good first impression, so it's vital your interview skills are first class. Here's how to wow them from the word go.

Preparing for the job interview is very much like preparing for opening night at the theatre. Lines and roles need to be practised, wardrobes must be readied, and actors must know their cues - when to speak and when to listen.

Not unlike opening night of a play, the job interview is an isolated event in which you get one opportunity to make a good first impression. A bad impression is seldom reversible. It's therefore vital you prepare methodically for "Interviewing with Panache."

For most individuals, job interviews don't happen very often, but because of their importance when they do occur they tend to create anxiety.

How can you best prepare for their inevitability in a manner that leaves your interviewer with a positive and lasting impression, and provides you with the opportunity to be invited back for a second interview?

Interviewing with composure and flair takes research, planning, strategizing, and preparation.

Research

Get as much information as possible about the organization - its products or services, its industry standing, its corporate structure. Is it a stand-alone company or one of many subsidiaries? What is its corporate culture like? What are its challenges? Who is its competition?

Strategize

Once you know about the company, identify how your skills, strengths and experiences fit and what you have to offer that will help them solve their human resources needs.

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