



10 Ways to Ace the Interview (When You Want To Quit)

Ever go to a job interview only to feel like you left with a verbal wedgie, a noogie or a slap in the face? Negative interviewers can do that to you, especially if you aren't prepared. So prepare yourself now with these tips:

1. Intimidation is the killer of confidence, so instead of letting hot headed CEOs get under your skin, try taking the "kill them with kindness" approach. Be the exact opposite of the person sitting across from you and let them know that you're in control by not bowing down to their demands or condescending remarks. You'd be surprised how well this works when they are used to being in control!
2. It only takes one bad interview with the devil's apprentice to know what to look for next time. Before the interview, call the person you are meeting with to confirm. Say, "Hi, this is Sally Sue and I wanted to call and confirm our interview at 11am tomorrow. I'm really looking forward to meeting you!". See what your contact says to this. If you get an agitated *why are you calling and wasting my time?* response, then prepare yourself for battle. If you get a polite and welcoming reply, you should be in the clear.
3. Go to your happy place. Watch a funny movie or surround yourself with people who make you laugh the night before/morning of the interview. Feeling good about yourself when you walk into a boxing match framed as an interview gives you a solid foundation to start with. Prepare for the worst case scenario by walking in the door in the best mindset you can.
4. Don't give in and fight back! Stay confident, relaxed, and emulate the Dog Whisperer. You are in control even when the dog thinks he is. Some interviewers are trying to get you to crack. It's a pitiful technique, but many find it's the best way to weed out the weak.
5. Learn as much as you possibly can about the company. Wow them with your deep knowledge of their company and preface each question with information you know about them. Also, do some research on their competition and note what they do better than the other guys. It will make them feel superior and more in control without having to exert that by yelling at you!
6. If the vein is popping out of your potential new employer's head, you might want to turn the conversation around. Start asking questions directly related to the interviewer, like "how long have you been with the company? What role did you have when you started? Tell me the story of working your way up". If you get them talking about themselves, you can quickly turn their lion's roar into a kitten's meow.
7. Turn the tables again, but for a different reason. If your interviewers are firing questions at you at machine gun speeds, you can slow down the pace without them knowing by giving answers, and then (slyly) asking them questions to get them off the trigger and into the hot seat with you.
8. Bring a unique gift for them. You don't want to show up with gold watches for the panel, but if you can bring something clever as a "leave behind", it will make you memorable

and will also make them feel special. Interviewing is a necessary evil for most people and they dread the process. Make it more fun for them by giving them a reason to be interested (and nice).

9. Change the subject. Notice anything on your interviewer's desk? A golf trophy? Picture of her kids? A business award? Comment on that and change the mood from business to personal interest...that will get the interviewer off your back and she'll take off her Freddie Krueger mask while she does it.
10. Don't give them any reason to bully you! Get there on time (as in, 10 minutes early), be well dressed, have all your materials and pen ready, be polite to the receptionist, be patient if you have to wait, etc. If you do everything you can to ensure a smooth interview, then chances are, it will be.

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