

Visalia Unified School District Teacher Interview



PURPOSE OF THE INTERVIEW

Supply information about you to the School District that is not contained in your resume.

Enable the District to evaluate your personality.

Allow you to gain additional information about the District.

Provide an opportunity for you and the District to know each other.

PREPARATION FOR INTERVIEW

Know your "target employer"

- Research the district

- Review the district

- Find out about interviewer(s)



Know Yourself

- Review your resume

- Decide which skills and talents you will emphasize

- Goals and objectives

- Likes and dislikes, philosophy

GETTING READY FOR THE INTERVIEW

Self-assessment, analyze your strengths and weaknesses, your background, academic record, vocational interest and experiences, extra curricular activities, values and aspirations. **Be able to express your overall qualifications in a well-organized and convincing manner.**

INTERVIEW

Four basic stages of an interview

- The introduction.

- A review of your background and interests.

- A discussion of the District opportunities.

- The Conclusion, in which points are clarified.



Topics of Questions

- Introduction (opening)

- Classroom Management/Discipline

- Organization and Planning



Topics of Questions (Cont.)

Methods and Techniques
Knowledge of Subject Matter/Content/Process
Working with Students
Communication Skills/Human Relations
General Strengths
Closing Questions

INTERVIEW CONTENT

There is now way to be sure of the exact questions you will be asked. Practice answering sample questions. But do not try to memorize answers. Most questions asked relate to the following categories:

Who You Are



Tell me about your experiences with children/adults/teenagers.
Tell all your life experiences (volunteering, working at summer camp, traveling to different countries)
What are your strengths? Your weaknesses?
What goals have you set for yourself ?
Describe a difficult problem you've had to deal with.
Rate yourself on a scale of one to ten.
What are your five best accomplishments?

What You Know

Stress your qualifications.
Explain your role as a member of a teaching staff.

What Can You Do for the Employer?

Why are you interested in being a teacher?
What characteristics do you think are important for this position?
What can you contribute to our school district?
As a teacher, what do you see yourself doing in the next five years?

APPLICANT'S QUESTIONS TO THE DISTRICT

Does your district offer inservice training for new teachers during the school year?
Do you have an active teacher/parent organization?
Are there opportunities for team teaching or team planning?

WHAT DISTRICTS ARE LOOKING FOR

- Ability - can you do the job?
- Willingness - will you do the job?
- Determination – are you willing to take the extra step for students?
- Enthusiasm – do you have the energy and excitement necessary?
- Self-confidence – are you self assured in the interview?
- Maturity – are you older than your students?
- Sense of Humor - can you laugh and enjoy teaching?
- Fluency of expression – can you express your ideas well?
- Warmth – does it show you care about kids?

WHAT TO DO DURING THE INTERVIEW

- Only discuss matters related to the position.
- Be Business like and brief.
- Give the information asked for.
- It is usually better to ask for a specific type of teaching position rather than to say "I'll take anything". Be flexible and willing, but indicate Preference.

INTERVIEW TIPS

- Show enthusiasm.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Make direct, natural eye contact.
- Be sincere, tactful, and courteous.
- Be consistent.
- Honesty is the best policy; don't stretch the truth!
- Let the interviewer set the pace, but you control the content.
- RELAX, don't panic. It won't be the end of the world if you don't get the job. Learn from the experience.



THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Dress for the job – look the part of a professional teacher.
- Be conservative in your dress.
 - jewelry – less is more
 - makeup – natural is the key word
 - scents – not so much, it lingers
- Personal Hygiene – never, never allow bad breath, dandruff, body odor, dirty nails, scuffed shoes, or runners in hosiery.
- HALO EFFECT – First 30 seconds, first impressions are the most lasting!
- Interviewing – like anything else we do, practice makes perfect.

TYPICAL QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE ASKED

Why did you decide on a teaching career?

Tell me some things about your background.

What is your philosophy of education?

Tell me about your student teaching experience.

How was your room organized? What was the atmosphere of your classroom?

As you look back on your teaching experience, what was the most effective element of your teaching? About your style? What was the least effective about your teaching style?

What part of the curriculum do you feel comfortable teaching? What content area do you feel you need more help with? Why?

What types of discipline programs would you use with your students?

What innovative ideas would you like to initiate in your classroom?

Name three effective ways to motivate students.

In planning your lessons or units of study how do you organize and prepare your material?

What do you anticipate as being the least satisfying aspect of teaching?

With what extra curricular activities would you be willing to assist?

Think before answering a question. Take a few seconds if needed to formulate your response. Be polite, accurate, honest, and frank. If you have taken the time to prepare adequately for the interview and your skills are the ones being sought by the Scholl District, you have an excellent chance of being selected for the position.