

The BIG SEVEN Interview Questions



1. Tell me about yourself. – I am a grade eleven student at Niagara District Secondary School pursuing the performing arts. I love being involved- I coach and train at Gymnastics Energy, regularly volunteer at my church teaching Sunday school and serving, as well as being in the Major Musical Production, Dance Team, and Choir at my school. Also, when I have a commitment, I am dedicated to being there, prepared and active.
2. Why do you want to work for this company? - I would like to work for you because I think that it would be a great opportunity for me as well as a learning experience. Although I have coached camps before, each one is different. I look forward to meeting new people, improving on my skills, and helping others. The variety of camps that you provide are really neat, I am particularly interested in Adventure Camp, Camp Maun-Kiki and Splash and Play.
3. What are your greatest strengths? - Some of my greatest strengths are that I am a leader, reliable, creative, enthusiastic, and have a positive attitude. These qualities are especially beneficial in group or camp settings. I regularly take initiative in groups and encourage others to voice their opinions and help out. Those who know me know that they can count on me being there and doing my part, which I find very important when working with others.
4. What are your weaknesses? – Well, sometimes people are thrown off by my enthusiasm. I am a very expressive person and I show when I'm excited. However, I feel that my eagerness really gets through to children and encourages them to participate.
5. Tell me about your experiences with this type of work. – I have worked at the Gymnastics Energy Day Camp for over 3 years now, as well as coaching kindergym and birthday parties there. I have experienced the good and the bad at Day Camp, overall we have a great time but there's the odd difficulty that has to be dealt with. As with any camp, there are some uncooperative children, some disagreements between the kids, and/or some minor injuries, I have learned how to deal with them. I also teach Sunday school at my church, which once again, reinforces my experience dealing with children.
6. What are your long-term goals? – After graduating high school, I intend to go to university for drama/performing arts and hopefully pursue that as a career. I may also study biology, or fashion design; there are so many opportunities that interest me, and I just love to learn. I plan to stay involved in the community, which may mean being a counsellor, or volunteer work. What I want most is to be comfortable, and happy with my life.
7. Are there any questions that you have? – Yes, what kind of training is necessary for this position? Can I obtain it through you?

Interviews

When 100 employers were surveyed about questions they most often asked in interviews, they responded:

“Tell me about yourself.” - 50/100

“What are your strengths?” - 30/100

“Why should we hire you?” - 20/100

What are the “Big Seven” questions employers love to ask?

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Why do you want to work for this company?
3. What do you consider to be your strengths? Why should we hire you?
4. What are your weaknesses?
5. Tell me about your experience with this type of work.
6. What are your long term goals? What do you hope to be doing in 5 years.
7. Do you have any questions?

Hints for Preparing for an Interview

- Be optimistic.
- Prepare for questions that the interviewer may ask.
- Do your research. Find out before the interview the types of tasks you will be responsible for and the skills you are going to need to accomplish those tasks.
- Know yourself. What talents training, and personal qualities will make you the ideal candidate for the position?
Bring an updated copy of your resume and reference sheet and any other materials that you may need.
- Dress for success.
- Timing is everything. Be there at least fifteen minutes early and know how to get there. Give yourself enough time for the interview and do not book anything after in case the interview runs longer than expected.
- The interview process doesn't always end when you walk out the door. There may be a few things you have to do to follow up.

Assignment

Complete the following assignment and submit your work to your teacher.

- Answer the “Big Seven” questions.

If time permits the following is another assignment that could be added.

Imagine that you are an employer preparing to interview for a job opening. Your task is to identify the type of job and create three questions to ask your classmates in an interview. These jobs and questions will then be posted around the room for other students to respond.

Students answering must respond to two separate interviewers, answering six questions in all. Students will be evaluated on their responses.

Part G: Interview Questions

These are sample Interview questions, the rationale behind asking them, as well as what the employers are looking for in your answers.

Q: Tell me about yourself.

A: Employers ask this question so they can begin to assess whether you will fit in with their team. Tell the employer about the school that you attend, when you expect to graduate, a brief summary of your employment and volunteer experience, and general information about your hobbies. This is not an opportunity to get personal!

My Answer:

Q: Why do you want to work for this company

A: The employer is attempting to find out why you are interested in the position and what you have researched about the company. This is a good place to complement the company on their reputation and point out why you personally use their service or product. In addition you should “wow” them with quality knowledge about their company culture, service guidelines, new products, who they serve, head office location, etc.

My Answer:

Q: What do you consider to be your strengths? Why should we hire you?

A: This is your opportunity to strut your stuff! Pick at least three POWER qualities about yourself and define them using specific examples of how you have displayed that quality in employment, school or team situations. For example, “I demonstrate initiative in group efforts, by attempting to increase motivation with my team members.”

My Answer:

Q: What are your weaknesses?

A: Trick Question...The employer is testing your ability to self evaluate. Are you able to identify a weakness, yet show how it remains to be a positive quality, and how you are improving yourself? For example, if you think that you are fairly serious you might say "Although others consider me to be somewhat serious at times, I think that I am reliable and I consider my options when making a decision."

My Answer:

Q: Tell me about your experience with this type of work.

A: The employer wants to know about any relevant experience that you have. If you have no experience, then you need to begin volunteering your time to increase your personal portfolio. Spruce up your answer by listing transferable skills that you have obtained at home and through school and show how they related to the position. When summarizing previous experience, explain your experience first by stating your position title and the company name, followed by a general description of what you were responsible for and what you were particularly good at. Remember, use action oriented words to catch the employers attention.

My Answer:

Q: What are your long term goals? What do you hope to be doing in 5 years?

An employer wants to know that they have hired a student who is committed to their future, and plans to make something of themselves. Be sure to tell the employer about plans for post-secondary education and occupational dreams. Also reaffirm your interest in staying with that company to increase your skill set and make a positive impact while with them.

My Answer:

Q: Do you have any questions?

A: Do not leave the interview without making a few inquiries of your own! Asking a minimum of three questions reinforces your interest in the position. Ask questions like: When will I hear from you? What qualities are you looking for in the successful candidate? What kind of training is involved? How did you get started in the business? Does this company participate in community events?
(Off the record...don't ask any questions related to \$\$, benefits or time off!)

My Answer: