



TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE INTERVIEWS

Great Questions List

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF AND PEERS

- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- What are your goals for this year?
- What do you like best about yourself?
- What's something people wouldn't know about you just from looking at you?
- Tell a story about someone who has had a significant impact on your life.
- Tell a story about a place that is important to you. Paint a picture of the place and talk about why it's important to you.
- Tell a story about an accomplishment or event from your past that had a significant impact on you.
- Tell a story that says something important about who you are.
- Some students have a background, identity, interest or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later successes. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, which marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.



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QUESTIONS TO ASK TEACHERS

- Do you believe that this is a good school? Why or why not?
- Tell a story that shows what you find most challenging/rewarding about being a teacher.
- Have you ever thought about changing your career? If so, why didn't you?
- How is this school different from or similar to the school you went to growing up?
- Tell about a student who had a significant impact on you.
- Tell a story about the best teacher you ever had.
- What do you know now that you wish you had known on your first day as a teacher?
- Tell a story about your biggest success in school.
- Tell a story about what you learned from your biggest failure in school.
- Tell a story that illustrates what you're trying to learn to do better as a teacher?
- If you could do any other type of job, what would it be? Why?
- If you could tell your students something about you that they wouldn't know otherwise, what would it be?
- How do you want your students to remember you?
- Are there any words of wisdom you'd like to pass along?



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QUESTIONS TO ASK ANYONE

- What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?
- Who has been the biggest influence on your life? What lessons did you learn?
- How has your life been different from what you'd imagined?
- What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do?
- What are you proudest of in your life? Why?
- Who has had the biggest influence on your life and how?
- Who are your best friends? What are they like?
- Can you tell a story about any cultural traditions observed by your family and help us understand why they are important?
- Is there anything that you've never told anyone but want to tell me now?
- Is there something about me that you've always wanted to know but have never asked?
- Do you have any favorite story about...?
- What was it like where you grew up? What was your childhood like?
- If you could do everything again, what would you do differently?
- Have you ever had your heart broken? Have you ever broken a heart?
- Can you tell me about your religious beliefs/spiritual beliefs?
- What was the most profound spiritual moment of your life?
- If you believe in God, can you please describe Him/Her/Them?
- What are your best memories? Worst memories?
- What is your ethnic background? What do you know about your ethnic background?
- What were your parents like? Where are your parents from? Have they told you any stories about growing up or living where they're from? Have you ever been there? What was that experience like?
- Who is your favorite relative and why?
- What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?
- How would you like to be remembered?
- What are your dreams for me?
- Are you proud of me?



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- What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs?
- If your race, ethnicity, or gender is depicted negatively by the media, tell a story that helps us understand how this affects you.
- If you communicate who you are through your style, describe it and tell us how it communicates who you are.