

5 Tips to Ace Your Summer Interviews

With summer fast approaching, many students are scrambling to find jobs to make some extra money. In order to get a job, you not only need to apply, but you (usually) have to be interviewed as well. Interviews are tricky, but also the key to landing your job. Here's five tips to ace the interview stage.

• **Be professional.** Even if the job you're going for is lower-key on dress code, it doesn't hurt to wear something that looks put together and professional. Even a dress or a nicer shirt will do. In addition, show up early. Giving yourself nine to ten minutes to prepare, will help you gain an edge.

• **Play to your strengths.** If an interviewer asks a particularly tough question, highlight your strengths in the topic. If you can communicate well, give examples. If you can write or sell items well, tell them that!

• **Be a storyteller.** If an interviewer asks you a question asking to demonstrate your strengths, give them a specific story to back up why you're strong in that area.

• **Ask questions.** Asking questions shows that you're engaged and interested in the company and the interviewer. Try to avoid asking questions about salary, but definitely ask when you can expect to hear back from them.

• **Give a handshake.** Make sure the handshake is firm and business-professional. The handshake is their last impression of you.

• Harley Atchison (harley.atchison@student.pella.k12.ia.us)

"This is America" Highlights Flaws in American Politics

Donald Glover, better known as "Childish Gambino," has taken a break from his self-proclaimed retirement from music to release a single and music video entitled "This is America." The video highlights many points of modern American culture, including dance trends and samples of prominent contemporary rappers. It also features the uglier parts of American culture, such as deeply-rooted racism and gun violence. The themes are blanketed by a fun, almost reggae-like beat. It's a poignant, hard-to-swallow message wrapped up in a catchy tune.

To understand the nuanced themes of the video, analyzing the symbolism is important. A large theme is gun violence in America, visualized through Glover's slaughtering of people in his video. Every time he shoots someone, there is a person there to take the gun away in a red velveteen cloth, while the bodies are left to lie on the pavement.

He also highlights the fact that children are watching the adults and important figures in their lives. He demonstrates this by having

children dance and follow behind him throughout the video, calling on adults to be better role models for the children watching their every



move. Conveniently, the children are not to be seen during the scenes with guns in them, which cruelly points out how we shield children from learning about important injustices in our society today.

Another thing that is threaded throughout the video is the chaos going on behind him at all times. He purposely places tragedy behind him (i.e. suicide, burning buildings, etc) to point out how, as a society, we forget to focus on the injustices and imbalances if something more interesting comes along.

The ending of the video is a slap to the face. Throughout the video he ignores and is a part of the violence and injustice, though at the end, he is running from the crowds of extreme white-supremacists. The look on his face is chilling. It forces you to look at yourself and wonder, "Am I contributing to this? Am I a part of the problem, or the solution?"

• Harley Atchison (harley.atchison@student.pella.k12.ia.us)

Summer playlist - Some Lesser-Known Tunes to Get You Through the Summer Heat

Organ Tapes - "Something"

The tape this comes from quietly dropped about three or so days before the end of last year, and I've only just now stumbled across it in the last few weeks. I guess one way you could describe it would be to say that it's sort of futuristic R&B, both emotionally detached and intimate at the same time, with the vocals bouncing back and forth above and then underneath the synthwork on the beat. It feels like some of the sounds were sampled from a space shuttle or a broken arcade game from the 90s.

Milo - "Yet Another"

With a jazzy, stuttering instrumental, this track is 'lyrical' but not in the annoying backpacker way, which is kind of a feat for Milo ... so many cool-sounding words in this song, too: "cuneiform," "Methuselah," "crucible," "aphorism" - you could make a vocab quiz cherry-picking words from these verses, and it would probably be hard. (The song is hard, too.)

Lil Uzi Vert - "LUV SCARS K.o 1600"

I feel like no one really paid attention to this track when it came out because it was supposed to be a throwaway single, but it's definitely one of my favorite things he's ever done. At least, it's definitely one of his best hooks - the beat sounds like you're floating in purgatory and Uzi is another lost soul gliding in circles around you. That's probably an awful analogy, but I'm not going to rewrite it.

Babyfather & A\$AP Rocky - "Benzo Amore"

This collab came out of nowhere, and it's really interesting. I'm sure most people know who A\$AP Rocky is, but Dean Blunt, the dude behind Babyfather, is a really mysterious experimental artist from the UK that just sort of appears suddenly and then drops off the map whenever he feels like it. Rocky does the hook, and then this monotone, disorienting British voice comes in; it's a ghost of a song, and it's a bummer that it's only two minutes long.

Pastor T.L. Barrett - "Nobody Knows"

If you look through all the artists Kanye has sampled, you'll eventually arrive at a fairly unknown gospel artist from the 70s named T.L. Barrett. The small pool of material he recorded might be some of the most soulful music ever put to wax, and even if you're not super Christian, don't let the fact that it's about God put you off because it slaps, I'm telling you. I think Steph Curry also used this song at one point.

• Gavin Klein (gavin.klein@student.pella.k12.ia.us)



Twitten By

Bailee Meyer

@bailee_meyer

ok watching all my cheer girls tryout for next year makes me so sad

Cecily Johnson

@Cecilyyyyyyyyyy

I was walking up the stairs today at school and a kid was walking down, and we somehow held hands and I have never been more surprised/confused in all of life

Natalie Henry

@natsokool

and in one night, senior year was made #showchoir

Paighton Malek

@paighton_malek

Wish I knew more people I'll be going to college with

Kaeleigh Deward

@k33jd

Trying to choose a senior quote has been the most stressful part of my week so far.

Jake Grundey

@jakegrundey

life hack: instead of doing ur 5 page paper b4 like a responsible student wait until the night before to prepare you for what heck feels like

Micheal Schildroth

@mdschildy

ok so to all my seniors out there...who all is moving to waterloo/cf this year and going to hawkeye/uni because I want friends and potential room-mates???

Landon VanderLeest

@LandonVL26

When you're going through difficulty and wondering where God is, remember the teacher is usually quiet during the test.

Ally Pronia

@ally01gator

Hannah: Ally, I am really gonna miss your smile and how you always make me laugh next year.

Marcus: Ally, I like your shoes more than your shirt
Boys and girls, the difference between boys and girls!

Bronwyn Metcalf

@Bronwyn_Metcalf

You are worthy to be loved

