Interview Skills Workshop

Lori Sather, Recruitment Officer Human Resources & Environment, Health and Safety

Objectives

- To understand the interview process
- Preparing for an interview
- What to expect before, during, and after the interview
- DoAs/DonAts

What is an Interview

- Professional business meeting, the goal of which is to determine the fit of candidateAs skills and experience to the needs of the organization
- Opportunity to demonstrate your value to the employer
- Not an interrogation

There are NO Tricks

- Organizations have a great deal riding on the people they hire
- 70% of a managerAs time will be coaching poor performers
- Recruiting is an investment in people just as companies invest in technology or equipment

Who Succeeds?

- People who find out enough about the job for which they are interviewing and how their skills relate to the employer needs
- People who prove their skills through demonstrated experience
- Convey enthusiasm and interest
- Have assessed their career path

Before the Interview

Prepare, Prepare, Prepare!!

- Review the job posting
- Review your resume and cover letter
- Anticipate what questions might be asked
- Be prepared with examples of how you have demonstrated your skills
- Understand the position you are applying to

At the Interview

Create a good first impression!

- Dress appropriately
- Arrive on time
- Maintain eye contact; be confident; firm handshake
- Writing material
- Samples/Portfolio

At the Interview

- Structured interview format:
 - Questions based on job analysis
 - Same questions asked of each candidate
 - Notes
- Warm Up
 - Outline of interview format
 - Usually starts with exploring your resume or asking why youAve applied

Types of Questions

- Hypothetical or Situational
 - given a scenario, describe what you would do
 - assesses how you might perform in a situation
- Behavioural Based
 - give an example of an incident in your past where you demonstrated key skills or qualities

Heart of the Interview

- 60% of the interview will be comprised of you responding to questions prepared by the recruiter
- Think about the question being asked before responding α listen carefully to the question
- STAR Situation, Task, Action and Result or STORY method

STAR

- Situation : Set the stage for your story. Who, what, where, why, when.
- Task : What were you trying to achieve?
- Action : What did you specifically do to demonstrate your skills?
- <u>Result</u>: What ultimately happened?

Tips to a successful interview

- Let them know what you have to offer
- Be confident
- Listen and ask for clarification, if needed
- Think before you speak
- Let your personality shine
- Be professional

After the Interview

- Be prepared with questions for the panel
- Prepare a closing statement of interest
- Brief note of thanks
- Use this experience to improve on your interviewing skills
- Request feedback

Interview NO NOs

- Little to no research / not prepared
- Talking too much
- Not talking enough (not providing enough detail)
- Limp handshake
- Aggressive manner
- Arrogance α over confident

NO NO's

- Criticism of past employers
- Inability to articulate your strengths as they relate to the job
- Expecting the interviewer to carry you through the interview
- Passivity
- Extreme nervousness

Nervousness

- Be prepared, review qualifications/story
- Practice!
- Trust in yourself α be yourself
- Take a deep breath
- You are better prepared at this point than most people!

Questions?