

GLEN ROCK HIGH SCHOOL

Guidance Department



COLLEGE PLANNER – The Interview

Students put tremendous amounts of pressure on themselves regarding interviews, yet policies and importance of the interview vary widely amongst colleges and universities. Approach schools you are interested in, and ask the admissions office these questions:

1. Is an interview required?
2. Where are interviews held?
3. Is the interview evaluated and to what extent?
4. What percentage of applicants get interviews?

NOTE: *If you live within a three hour drive of a school, inquiring about scheduling an on-campus interview demonstrates you are an applicant who is seriously interested in that college or university.*

Interview Tips

- ♦ Think *conversation* – the interview should be a two-way exchange.
- ♦ Do some research in the college guide, catalog, and website ahead of time. Know some important information about the school and formulate specific questions that you have about the college or university.
- ♦ Be prepared to discuss your strengths and weaknesses, as well as your interests and talents.
- ♦ Remember, this is your opportunity to sell yourself and be confident in your responses – there are no right or wrong answers. Emphasize your strengths and *be yourself*.
- ♦ Have clear goals that you can honestly discuss.

Common Interview Questions

- ♦ What interests you about this college/university? What do you know about this college?
- ♦ What are you looking for in a college?
- ♦ What are your educational goals? What are your values?
- ♦ Why should we accept you?
- ♦ What can you contribute to our college community? What talents/strengths do you bring to this college?
- ♦ Do you have the ability to overcome tough situations? How resilient are you in the face of defeat?
- ♦ How will you take advantage of the opportunities at this college?
- ♦ How high is your interest in attending this college?
- ♦ What kind of match do you feel you have with this college?
- ♦ How will you manage your time and life while you are away from home?
- ♦ How will you spend your out-of-class time?

Interview Do's & Don'ts

- **Don't chew gum.**
- Avoid or limit using the words *cool, like, and whatever.*
- **First Impressions Do Count** – Dress appropriately; arrive on time and act professionally.
- Shake hands firmly and maintain good eye contact with the interviewer.
- Speak and answer honestly – don't say what you think they want to hear. A good interviewer will see right through a phony response.

Don't dread the interview. Think conversation – this is not a grilling session or a search for the right answer.

Good Luck and be Yourself!

Taken from *Winning the Heart of the College Admissions Dean* by Joyce Slayton Mitchell, Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, California, 2001