



The Interview Series: (7) Dress to Impress

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Now that you are more familiar with the various interview styles and are prepared to respond successfully to interview questions, it is time to concentrate on an aspect of the interview that you have significant control over – your appearance.

Although it may not seem fair, an interview is very subjective. Interviewers choose not only a person that is qualified for the job, but they choose a person he/she likes most. Most interviewers will form an opinion before you even have the opportunity to shake hands or introduce yourself. They will judge you based on your outward appearance.

For the most part, you have control over this aspect of your packaging. Take your time planning your interview outfit. If possible, try it on a few days before your meeting. This way you don't have any surprises the day of the interview that could make you feel frazzled or rushed. Make adjustments to your outfit as necessary before you ever step into the potential employer's lobby. Having interview attire that is comfortable and flattering will make you feel more confident, which will shine through during your interview.

Dress to impress to tell the interviewee that you can and will be successful at the job without even saying a word. For an impressive interview appearance, follow these basic guidelines:

For Men:

- Solid color, conservative tailored suit (black or navy)
- White long-sleeve dress shirt
- Conservative tie, tied properly; no fancy tie-tack
- Dark matching socks
- Polished shoes and a belt that matches in color
- No earrings
- Neat, professional hairstyle
- Clean shave
- Portfolio or briefcase

For Women:

- Solid color, conservative tailored suit (black or navy)
- Coordinating blouse
- Tan or light hosiery (Bring an extra pair with in case you should tear them on the way to the interview.)
- Moderate heeled, polished shoes
- Limited jewelry
- Sparse make-up/perfume
- Neat, professional hairstyle
- Manicured nails
- Portfolio or briefcase