



7th Grade Lesson Plan

I. Objective

Students will learn about the importance of nonverbal and verbal cues in personal interactions. Students will practice interviewing skills as if they were practicing for a college interview.

(Activities can be presented over several class periods or days.)

II. TEKS Used In Lesson Plan

ELAR, Speech (Elective Credit).b.2. Expressing and responding. The student develops skills for expressing and responding appropriately in a variety of situations. The student is expected to:

(A) use appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication skills in interpersonal situations;

(C) explain the importance of using tact, courtesy, and assertiveness appropriately in interpersonal situations;

4. Informing. The student expresses and responds appropriately to informative messages. The student is expected to: (A) research ideas and topics to acquire accurate information from a variety of primary, secondary, and technological sources; (B) use appropriate communication skills to request, provide, and respond to information in interpersonal conversations; (C) use appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and listening skills in interviews;

III. Materials

College 101 for Middle School PowerPoint

“The College Interview” PowerPoint

Worksheet: College Interview Questions

IV. Procedure

Warm-up Activity:

Begin by talking about admission process for college. Ask students the following questions:

- Have any of you ever participated in an interview?
- Why do you think colleges have interviews?
- Why might a college interview be important?

Optional: Review College 101 for Middle School PowerPoint

Activity A

Present “The College Interview” PowerPoint. Emphasize that interviewing skills are not only important for the college application process, but also for finding jobs, internships, etc. Review each slide with students.

Visualization: Encourage students to take a moment and think about the information in the PowerPoint presentation. Guide students in the following:

- Imagine your dream college. Think about how incredible it would be to attend. Imagine you are a high school senior who has finished the time consuming college application process. Imagine that you are get a phone call from a college alumni of your dream school, asking to interview. How would this feel?

Have students open their eyes. Inform students that they will now be practicing for a college interview with some sample questions. Print Activity A Worksheet for students. Have students practice in pairs. Make sure to recognize those students who are modeling the skills learned in session.



Activity B

After practicing their interview skills, ask students how they felt about the interview process. Let students know that a handshake at the end of your interview is a sign of professional courtesy. When both you and the interviewer are standing, and preparing to leave the interviewer's office, extend a handshake and say, "Thank you. I appreciate your time in our interview. I'm looking forward to hearing about the final decision." Emphasize the importance of a firm handshake, eye contact, and good manners at the end of the interview. Call on volunteers to practice a handshake, or perhaps have students practice with one another. Also practice this if students are transitioning out for break or lunch. Again, emphasize that these skills are not only important for college interviews, but all interviews, including jobs, internships, etc.

V. Check for Comprehension

- Why is the college interview important?
- What is something you learned from the presentation?
- Why might it be important to review/practice for an interview?



Name: _____

Date: _____

College Interview Questions Activity A

College Interview Questions

Be Ready to Answer These 12 Questions in Your College Interview

By Allen Grove, About.com Guide

Most college interview questions are meant to help you and the interviewer find out if the college is a good match for you. Rarely will you get a question that puts you on the spot or tries to make you feel stupid. Remember, the college is trying to make a good impression too. Use the interview to show off your personality in ways that aren't possible on the application.

1. Tell me about yourself.

This question seems easier than it is. How do you reduce your whole life to a few sentences? And it's hard to avoid commonplace answers like "I'm friendly" or "I'm a good student." Of course you want to demonstrate that you're friendly and studious, but try also to say something memorable here that really makes you different from other college applicants. Can you hold your breath longer than anyone in your school? Do you have a huge collection of Pez dispensers? Do you have unusual cravings for sushi?

2. Why are you interested in our college?

Be specific when answering this, and show that you've done your research. Also, avoid answers like "I want to make a lot of money" or "Graduates of your college get good job placement." You want to highlight your intellectual interests, not your materialistic desires. What specifically about the college distinguishes it from other schools you're considering?

3. What can I tell you about our college?

You can almost guarantee that your interviewer will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions. Make sure you have some, and make sure your questions are thoughtful and specific to the particular college. Avoid questions like "when is the application deadline?" or "how many majors do you have?" This information is both uninteresting and readily available on the school's webpage. Come up with some probing and focused questions: "What would graduates of your college say was the most valuable thing about their four years here?" "I read that you offer a major in interdisciplinary studies. Could you tell me more about that?"

4. Who in your life has most influenced you?

There are other variations of this question: Who's your hero? What historical or fictional character would you most like to be like? This can be an awkward question if you haven't thought about it, so spend a few minutes considering how you would answer. Identify a few real, historical, and fictional characters you admire, and be prepared to articulate WHY you admire them.

5. Why do you want to major in ?

Realize that you don't need to have decided upon a major when you apply to college, and your interviewer will not be disappointed if you say you have many interests and you need to take more classes before choosing a major. However, if you have identified a potential major, be prepared to explain why. Avoid saying that you want to major in something because you'll make a lot of money -- your passion for a subject will make you a good college student, not your greed.



6. What will you contribute to our campus community?

You'll want to be specific when answering this question. An answer like "I'm hard-working" is rather bland and generic. Think about what it is that makes you uniquely you. What exactly will you bring to diversify the college's community?

7. Tell me about a challenge that you overcame.

This question is designed to see what kind of problem solver you are. When confronted with a challenge, how do you handle the situation? College will be full of challenges, so the college wants to make sure they enroll students who can handle them.

8. What do you do for fun in your free time?

"Hangin' out and chillin'" is a weak answer for this question. College life obviously isn't all work, so the admissions folks want students who will do interesting and productive things even when they aren't studying. Do you write? hike? play tennis? Use a question such as this one to show that you are well-rounded with a variety of interests.

9. What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?

You don't need to pretend that you have your life figured out if you get a question like this. Very few students entering college could accurately predict their future professions. However, your interviewer does want to see that you think ahead. If you can see yourself doing three different things, say so -- honesty and open-mindedness will play in your favor.

10. Does your high school record accurately reflect your effort and ability?

In the interview or on your application, you often have an opportunity to explain a bad grade or a bad semester. Be careful with this issue -- you don't want to come across as a whiner or as someone who blames others for a low grade. However, if you really did have extenuating circumstances, let the college know.

11. Recommend a good book to me.

The interviewer is trying to accomplish a few things with this question. First, the question asks whether or not you've actually read much. Second, it asks you to apply some critical skills as you articulate *why* a book is worth reading. And finally, your interviewer might get a good book recommendation!

12. If you could do one thing in high school differently, what would it be?

A question like this can turn sour if you make the mistake of dwelling on things you regret. Try to put a positive spin on it. Perhaps you've always wondered if you would have enjoyed acting or music. Maybe you would have liked to give the student newspaper a try. Maybe, in retrospect, studying Chinese might have been more in line with your career goals than Spanish. A good answer shows that you didn't have the time in high school to explore everything that is of interest to you.