

Secrets To Success: Get Yourself Noticed

1

Bring the hard copy

You should always show up to an interview with a hard copy of your resume in hand. (Better yet, have a few copies with you in the event you meet with multiple people during the interview process). Sure, they have it in electronic form. Sure, they have very likely printed a copy out—but it makes you look good as a candidate to have one to hand them so they don't have to hunt for their copy. It shows that you come prepared, you're respectful of their time, and it's an easy way to kick things off on a positive note.

2

Be present

Listen actively throughout the interview. Maintain solid eye contact to indicate you are paying attention. You don't want to be looking at the artwork while they are speaking or give the appearance that you are not interested in what the interviewer is saying. According to PsyBlog post, people usually make more direct eye contact when talking one-to-one than in groups. In groups people tend to look directly at another person for about 3-5 seconds, but when it's one-to-one this increases to 7-10 seconds before they glance away.

3

Gratitude is the right attitude

Be sure to follow up with your interviewer(s) with a brief email to thank them for their time and consideration within 24 hours. You really want to make an impression? A handwritten thank you note will set you apart. You can briefly highlight what you learned during the interview and reaffirm your enthusiasm for the next steps. You can have the envelope addressed and proper postage attached and ready to drop in the nearest mailbox as soon as you leave the interview! #ClassAct

4

Be confident, but not cocky

Recruiters and clients like a candidate with confidence. Start the interview by greeting them with a firm handshake, a smile, and strong eye contact. Be confident in your skills and talents, but don't be cocky or overly confident. You want to let them know you're ready to hit the ground running, not give them the impression that you want to run the whole show.

5

Plan for success

It's true, you can't plan for what is out of your control, because each interview is unique. Plan how you want to present your portfolio ahead of time. Think about the technology you may require and bring it with you so you can show them how prepared and proactive you are. You can always bring your laptop, tablet, Wi-Fi hotspot, adapters, cables, etc. to ensure you look like a superstar when your presentation goes off without a hitch—because you planned ahead.

6

Make it work...focused / business as usual

The interview should be work-focused. Ideally the interview should feel conversational and flow freely, however there are some caveats to help you go with the flow. It's usually not appropriate to discuss your spouse, significant other, friends, pets, family members, etc. You're there to sell yourself as a creative professional, not share anecdotes from your personal life. When you crush it in the interview, you'll be able to call and text your friends and loved ones and tell them how well it went—and maybe you'll even have good news to share!

7

Show them some R-E-S-P-E-C-T and power off

If you bring your mobile phone with you, power it off and stow it in your bag/purse before you go into the interview. It's respectful and will show that you are courteous, attentive, and invested—and that you value other people's time. You don't want to be sitting in the interview and have your phone ringing, vibrating, or chiming in with notifications. Oh, the horror! Don't be that person.

Download the Interview Guide in full [here](#) and visit [Our Notebook](#), a blog for creative professionals like you, to learn more.



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