



JUST FOR TEACHERS: THE TEACHER INTERVIEW



1. Tell me about yourself including what will make you a good teacher (background, hopes, aspirations, long range goals, etc.). Why do you want to teach? What grade level?
2. Why are you interested in teaching in this school district? Why should we hire you? What are your Praxis scores?
3. How comfortable are you with using technology? How often do you use technology in your lesson plans? Could you tell me about a lesson where you used technology?
4. Describe a good teacher. If you were to rate your abilities as a teacher on a scale of 1-10 (10 being no room for improvement), how would you rate yourself?
5. Discuss your student teaching experience. What did you like best/least about it? Did you try anything innovative or find something that was successful for you? Give examples and be prepared to discuss.
6. How comfortable do you feel about maintaining classroom discipline? What kind of discipline plan do you like? How did you manage classroom discipline in your student teaching? Would you consider yourself strong or weak in this area? (Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10.)
7. How would you involve parents in your classroom?
8. How would you arrange your classroom?
9. Are you an individual that will be willing to do what other teachers might not volunteer or initiate doing? For example, write a grant or be a club sponsor (the employer is seeking a teacher that will be a leader, a self-starter and show initiative).
10. Which would you choose and why? (A) Being named "Teacher of the Year" (B) Helping a student with a winning essay.
11. Identify your strong and weak traits. Tell me an area you would like to be stronger in and how you are going to accomplish this.
12. What is your favorite/least subject to teach? Why? Describe a lesson you taught on each subject.
13. How do you get along with your cooperating teacher? (Give an honest, yet positive and convincing answer).
14. What is your philosophy of education?
15. Describe the ideal principal.
16. Is it necessary to know about students' personal lives?
17. Describe the methods of student evaluation that you would use.
18. How do you determine a student's strengths?
19. Would you rather teach students with learning disabilities or gifted students? Why?
20. What are you looking for in your first teaching position?
21. Would you rather teach in a rural or urban area? Why?
22. Are you willing to relocate to this area?
23. Project into the year 2010. Can you conceptualize educational programs? Educational buildings and equipment?
24. Do you think laughter should be allowed in the classroom?
25. What have you read in the past month? Name 3 books you would want with you if you were on a desert island and why.
26. What innovative ideas have you come up with or can you offer?
27. How do you feel about failure?
28. Is it important to be organized and why? Can a teacher be too organized?
29. How can you motivate a student to learn?
30. Should children be allowed to develop projects?
31. How would you show individualism in a classroom?
32. How would you develop a lesson about a subject you are about to teach?
33. Do you think deadlines are important? Explain.
34. How do you know when you are listening?
35. Do your friends come to you for advice?
36. Do you feel it is important that students be able to come to you with problems in general?
37. Is it important that you have a good rapport with your students?
38. You are attending an assembly in an auditorium equipped with a podium and a microphone. You are asked to tell the audience something about education. What would you say?

The interviewer might give you a situation (problem -solving type question) and ask what you would do.

Examples:

Situation: A student has done something that you had just told him not to do; he then says something the whole class laughs at. What would you do?

Situation: A disruptive, rebellious student hands you a note the last day of school saying, "Thank you. I learned a lot in your class this year." How do you react?

Situation: A parent comes to you and complains that what you are teaching is irrelevant to the child's needs. How do you react?

Situation: While you are consulting with a student who is doing poorly in your class, he says "You are the poorest teacher I have ever met." What is your response?

Situation: A child tells his teacher, "Jane Deaux is crying". What would you tell the student and how would you handle the situation?

Situation: After school you found John Deaux crying, he tells you that his teacher caught him cheating. What would you tell John Deaux?

Situation: A student told his teacher he forgot his homework, the teacher told the student it was OK . Do you agree with what the teacher told the student?

QUESTIONS YOU MAY ASK

1. What kind of working relationship exists between faculty and administration?
2. What is the general attitude of the community toward education? The school?
3. What is the school size? What is the average class size?
4. What is the size and composition of the staff?
5. What specialists are available on a consultant basis?
6. Are apartments/housing available and reasonably priced in the area?
7. When may I tour the school?
8. Inquire about the extent of technology (and/or programs) utilized within a school system and/or school.
9. Are teachers encouraged in professional development? How?
10. Is there a discipline plan in place for the school/or school system?
11. Is there a teacher mentoring program?
12. What is the cost of health insurance for your teachers? Are there other employee benefits?

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Be prepared for uncommon questions. They are assessing how you handle yourself during an interview.

Recruiters are looking for teachers who want to teach; in other words, the depth and the level of your commitment.

Never be negative, always accentuate the positive.

Communications skills are essential. How effective are your answers? Be concise, but do not give trite answers. Have substance to what you say. Ask questions that are relevant.

Other interviewing tips include: good eye contact, firm handshakes, know interviewers' name, maintain good physical posture, and watch your nonverbal communication.

Be prepared for second and third interviews that they conduct at a school site and/or central office with many staff members present.

Follow up the interview with a "thank you" letter to the person who conducted the interview and to the personnel director of the district. Restate your interests in the school district and your abilities.