PARSONS
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Top 10 Interview Tips

1. Show up 10 minutes early. You may have to fill out forms before the actual interview begins. And punctuality is very important in making a good first impression.

2. Introduce yourself with a firm, confident handshake and eye contact.

3. Look sharp! Always dress in a neat, clean manner. Think about who the company that you're interviewing is, and what's there image. Try to play the part. Depending on the company, designers tend to dress business casual, so try to look dressed for an interview with a bit of personal style. Spend time the night before ironing and polishing your shoes and accessorizing if appropriate.

4. Know the company and position you are interviewing for. Do some research on the web and find out what the company believes in and has in store for the future. If they have stores, visit them before hand. Be sure to be very familiar with the job description you are going for.

5. Gear your portfolio towards the company that you are interviewing for, putting your strongest groups first and last. Be able to balance showing your creativity with having something in your portfolio that could fit perfectly on their sales floor. Try to have one group that is geared towards the season that they are working on now (designers usually work a year out, so if it is Spring '06, then they are most likely working on Spring '07).

6. Bring extra copies of your resume. Your interviewer may want you to meet with more people than you had anticipated so be prepared!

7. Always ask for a business card at the end of your interview. You can't follow up if you don't have correct names, spellings, titles, numbers and emails.

8. Write a thank you note after the interview. Personalized, hand written are the best. Be brief, enthusiastic and to the point. Interviewers alwaysappreciate and remember thank you notes!

9. Never burn your bridges! Believe it or not, everyone knows everyone in this business. So always return phone calls and say thank you even if you're not interested in the job offer.

10. Be persistent, not annoying. It's always a good idea to follow up after the interview to show your interest but be careful not to be too aggressive. No stalking! It will leave a bad impression even if you had a stellar interview!