

INTERVIEWING for Education Majors

Interview Tips

- Know yourself, what you want, and how you plan to get there
- Research the school district prior to the appointment
- Know what the school district needs and match your strengths to those needs
- Dress professionally
- Bring resumes, references, writing samples, and any requested materials
- Arrive on time . . . 10 minutes early
- Make allies of everyone
- Concentrate on the first impression: use direct eye contact and a firm handshake
- Establish rapport, be optimistic, sincere, enthusiastic, and open
- Express your willingness to learn and enthusiasm for your profession
- Discuss what YOU can offer them...not what THEY can do for you
- Be yourself
- Follow-up with a thank you letter

Possible Interview Questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are your greatest strengths?
- What are your weaknesses/areas you can improve upon?
- What have you done in the past three months to improve in these areas?
- Why are you interested in our school district?
- What experience do you have with technology in the classroom?
- Why do you want to be a teacher?
- Who influenced you to pursue a career in education?
- What if your students don't get it; what is your plan for remediation?
- What is your philosophy of education?
- What are some of the objectives you hope to achieve in your first year?
- What is your approach to classroom management and student discipline?
- Define for me the role of the principal.
- Describe yourself in five words. How will those attributes benefit your students?
- How do you resolve peer conflicts?
- What are your interests outside of teaching?
- How should parents be involved in the instructional process?

Behavioral Interview Questions (STAR)

Situation: Choose the situation that best fits the focus of the question.

Task: Explain the task you were trying to complete.

Action: What action did you take to complete the task?

Result: What was the end result of your actions?

- Describe a lesson plan which was particularly successful by walking me through each stage from planning to delivery
- Tell me about a time in which you had to motivate a reluctant learner
- Describe how you provide examples from life experiences to your students
- Tell me about a time in which you had to change your scheduled lesson plans at a moment's notice
- Describe how you have differentiated a lesson to accommodate varying student needs
- Tell me about the most challenging classroom management situation you have encountered
- Describe the toughest discipline situation you encountered and how you handled it
- Give me an example of a time in which you had to be relatively quick in coming to a critical decision
- Describe in detail your best and worst days in a classroom
- Tell me about a time where you confronted by an angry individual on an issue, how did you respond
- Describe the teaching strategies you have used to present subject matter
- Explain to me your classroom management plan and how you would plan to implement it

Questions You Can Ask an Employer

- What is the student/teacher ratio in your district?
- Do you encourage teachers to obtain advanced degrees?
- How long have you (the interviewer) been with this school district?
- How did this teaching position come to be available?
- What types of internal/external training opportunities are available?
- Has your district hired Central Missouri graduates previously?
- How would you describe the level of community/parental support?
- What have you most/least liked about working for (name of school)?
- What allowances are made for new supplies and materials?
- What are the growth opportunities for the community?
- How does the rest of your interview process work from here?