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. 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?
3. Discuss your student teaching experience. What did you like best/least about it? If you were the teacher in that class, what improvements would you make? Did you try anything innovative or find something that was successful for you? Give examples and be prepared to discuss.
4. Go thru the steps you use to write a lesson plan.
5. 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 as a disciplinarian on a scale of 1-10.)
6. Do you incorporate technology in your lesson plans? Describe?
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 and honest, yet positive and convincing answer).
14. Why are you interested in teaching in this school district? Why should we hire you? What are your Praxis scores?
15. What is your philosophy of education?
16. Describe the ideal principal.
17. Is it necessary to know about students personal lives?
18. Describe the methods of student evaluation that you would use.
19. How do you determine a student’s strength?
20. Would you rather teach students with learning disabilities or gifted students? Why?
21. What are you looking for in your first teaching position?
22. Would you rather teach in a rural or urban area? Why?
23. Are you willing to relocate to this area?
25. Do you think laughter should be allowed in the classroom?
26. 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.
27. What innovative ideas have you come up with or can you offer?
28. How do you feel about failure?
29. Is it important to be organized and why? Can a teacher be too organized?
30. How can you motivate a student to learn?
31. Should children be allowed to develop projects?
32. How would you show individualism in a classroom?
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 their 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?

**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. Is there available housing 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**

Are you professionally dressed in interview attire? Be prepared for uncommon questions. They are assessing how you handle yourself during an interview. (Poise & Personality)

Recruiters are looking for teachers who want to teach; i.e., 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. (also, excel in your use of language)

Other interviewing tips include: good eye contact, firm handshakes, know interviewer’s 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 an email or 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.