**YTP Mock Interviews/Interview Practice**

Mock interviews are an ideal way to practice for real job interviews because you are in a situation that mirrors an actual interview with a company. When you review your interview with the interviewer, you'll be able to modify your responses and interview behavior, if necessary. As a student or recent student, you might not have a lot of work experience. You can draw on experiences as a student, an intern, or even a volunteer. If you participated in any extracurricular activities, you can talk about those experiences too.

**Tell me about yourself.**

**What They Want to Know:** The interviewer wants to know why you're an excellent fit for the job. Try to answer questions about yourself without giving too much, or too little, personal information. You can start by sharing some of your personal interests and experiences that don't relate directly to work, such as a favorite hobby or a brief account of where you grew up, your education and what motivates you. You can even share some fun facts and showcase your personality to make the interview a little more interesting.

#### ****Why should we hire you?****

**What They Want to Know:** Are you the best candidate for the job? The hiring manager wants to know whether you have all the required qualifications. Be prepared to explain why you’re the applicant who should be hired. Make your response a confident, concise, focused sales pitch that explains what you have to offer and why you should get the job.

#### ****What is your greatest strength?****

**What They Want to Know:** This is one of the questions that employers almost always ask to determine how well you are qualified for the position. When you are asked about your greatest strengths, it's important to discuss the attributes that qualify you for that specific job, and that will set you apart from other candidates.

#### ****What is your greatest weakness?****

**What They Want to Know:** Another typical question interviewers will ask is about your weaknesses. Do your best to frame your answers around positive aspects of your skills and abilities as an employee, turning seeming “weaknesses” into strengths. You can also share examples of skills you have improved, providing specific instances of how you have recognized a weakness and taken steps to correct it.

#### ****Why do you want this job?****

**What They Want to Know:** This question gives you an opportunity to show the interviewer what you know about the job and the company, so take time beforehand to research the company, its products, services, culture and mission. Be specific about what makes you a good fit for this role, and mention aspects of the company and position that appeal to you most.

#### ****How do you handle stress and pressure?****

**What They Want to Know:** What do you do when things don’t go smoothly at work? How do you deal with difficult situations? The employer wants to know how you handle workplace stress. Avoid claiming that you never, or rarely, experience stress. Rather, formulate your answer in a way that acknowledges workplace stress and explains how you’ve overcome it, or even used it to your advantage.

#### ****Describe a difficult work situation or project and how you overcame it.****

**What They Want to Know:** The interviewer wants to know how you respond when faced with a difficult decision. As with the question about stress, be prepared to share an example of what you did in a tough situation. It’s important to share details to make the story believable and engaging.

#### ****What are your goals for the future?****

**What They Want to Know:** This question is designed to find out if you’re going to stick around or move on as soon as you find a better opportunity. Keep your answer focused on the job and the company and reiterate to the interviewer that the position aligns with your long-term goals.

**Make a List of Questions to Ask**

Plan ahead and have interview questions of your own ready to ask (1-3). You aren't simply trying to get this job - you are also interviewing the employer to assess whether this company and the position are a good fit for you.

How would you describe the responsibilities of the position?

How would you describe a typical day in this position?

What is the company's management style?

Why is this position available?

How many people work in this office/department?

What are the prospects for growth and advancement?

Do you provide professional development opportunities?

What are the biggest challenges of this job?

How would you describe this company's values?