

Ask Vicki: What are some great job interview hacks?

In this answer on Quora, Monster career expert Vicki Salemi explains how doing a little homework and being observant can give you an edge.

Vicki Salemi

Monster career expert

Q. What are some great job interview hacks?

A. The best job interview hacks start with doing your homework. Research companies' social media feeds to see what they've been up to lately and get a sense of their culture and voice. Google your interviewers to learn more about them. During your interview, make references to what you learned from your research.

Another great hack has little to do with the actual interview, but can give you lots of information. Be observant from the moment you walk through the door—your eyes can give you a good understanding of what it might be like to work for that particular company. Is it a loud or quiet office environment? Are people working in group settings, or alone, or both? Do the people you encounter seem engaged? Do they look tired or energized?

One surefire hack to make the interview process easier is to write down your questions ahead of time and refer to your notes so you don't have to rely on your memory. Use that energy instead to express interest in the company and the position. Showing off your passion for what you do will go far in impressing the interviewers.

Immediately after the interview, jot down questions that may have stumped you or that you wish you could have answered differently. Use them as guidelines to prep for your next interview.

Also make a note of what you talked about with each interviewer, so when you email your thank-you notes, you can briefly refer to specifics, even something personal like, "Thank you again for your time. I hope you have a great vacation in Italy!"