

LOGO



INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE SHARING

VEF Fellow 2012

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PREPARATION



PREPARATION

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Make a plan

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Establish a group

PREPARATION

1) Make a detailed plan:



PREPARATION



- Read the experience of previous fellows → List out the frequent questions
- Divide in topics

LIST OF QUESTIONS

“I’m young, I have the right to change, to pursuit my passion.”

Confirm your academic preparation through your answer: ask an interesting question; demonstrate your scientific ability and preparation through the results of your course work and research.

- I. This is me.
- II. Education
- III. Other Activities
- IV. My research (Thesis + Minor Project)
- V. American dream
- VI. Future Pathway
- VII. Questions for Professor

PREPARATION



→ Plan to address/answer/practice each topic.

Prepare for the interview round

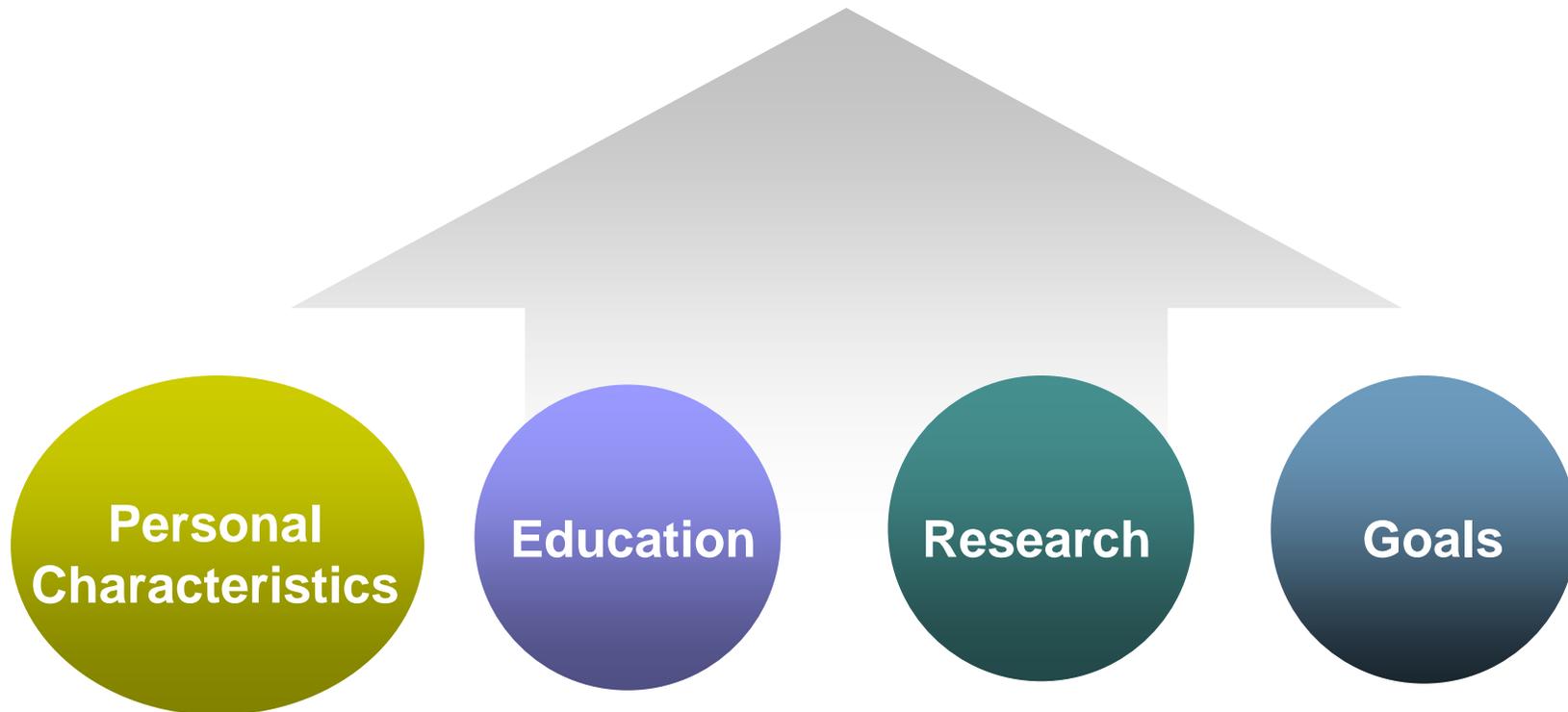
A. BEFORE THE GAME:

Tasks	Content	Schedule	Progress
English	Native accent: SP, Radio talk, TED, Online courses. Communication skills (Speak + Write): Practice with VEF interviewees + Practice with the white board.	Whenever I sit with computer Sunday Afternoon	
Your profile	<u>List of questions. (Attached)</u> Review your CV.	Night 12/7	In progress
Research	Reread my thesis and references. Summarize step by step, use chart/figure and picture. (Print them out.)	Morning + afternoon 13/7 Morning + afternoon 14/7	Almost done

MOST COMMON TOPICS



YOUR PICTURE



MOST COMMON TOPICS



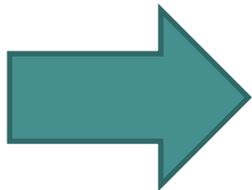
Some questions that are most frequently asked by professors:

“Who you are/ Where are you from/ What is your “nature”/ “essence”/

What positive things have happened to you/ Did you learn from your failure and success

Manage time to get involved in social and extracurricular activities? What did you learn from them (soft skills, lessons)? What have you done and achieved when in these events? Is there any “leadership potential” in you?

**Personal
Characteristics**



You are an optimistic, active and kind-hearted person. You have leadership, good communication, and problem-solving skills, etc.

MOST COMMON TOPICS



Some questions that most frequently asked by the professors:

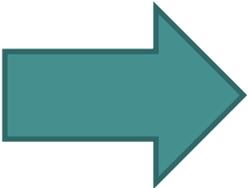


Education

Why did you chose to study this field ? “How have you been trained/ What did you gain or collect from your school or class/

Did you appreciate what people gave you? What is your viewpoint about your own education history/ course?

WHY did you get any bad scores?



You may not be the one who has the highest GPA, but you should be the one who can make the most of your study

MOST COMMON TOPICS



Some questions that most frequently asked by the professors:

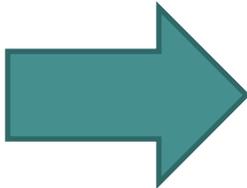


Research

Did you have any research experience? What projects have you done? Funding? Any publications?

What results did you get? How did you get them? Any difficulties? How you deal with these difficulties? How can you learn and improve from your failure?

Is your research significant for your society and for science? Does it contribute to Vietnam or the world?



You have strong research experience and will succeed in an intensive research environment at US universities

MOST COMMON TOPICS



Some questions that most frequently asked by the professors:



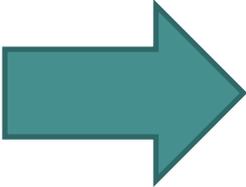
Goals

Why America? Why VEF? Why these universities/schools?

What are your research interests? Why? If they are/ are not related to your past research, why?

Have you contacted any professors or graduate students in the US?

What do you want to do after graduation? Are you a socially engaged person? What service you could provide to your people?



You have made a detailed plan for your life during the next 5, 10 and even 20 years.

PREPARATION



2) Improve your English and communication skills:



PREPARATION



Listening:

- Radio Online, BBC, CNN, Youtube...
- English lectures, technical terms

Speaking:

- Pronunciation
- Practicing with friends, foreigners, or even yourself

PREPARATION



3) Establishing a group:

- Practice communication skill (eye contact, hand shake, body language, etc.)
- Polish your English (tone, pronunciation, words and phrases to use, speed and volume)
- Cheer up each other
- Share information
- Receive the “feedback” about your “self” and your “work”.
- MAKE A NETWORK OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS!!!** → This is what VEF is about.

PREPARATION



3-5 person study group, frequently meeting
(once a week or two weeks)

Has a practice plan for every meeting

Invite one VEF fellow, alumni or
a US graduate student if you can

At least 1 or 2 mock interviews

**An ideal
group**



ONE DAY BEFORE THE INTERVIEW



ONE DAY BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

ONE DAY BEFORE THE INTERVIEW



1. Review list of questions
2. Double check for things to wear and to bring to the interview
3. Eat healthy food
4. Polish your nails. (No color, please)
5. Go to bed early and sleep well

ON THE INTERVIEW DAY



ON THE INTERVIEW DAY

ON THE INTERVIEW DAY



Before leaving:



Wake up early (plan to arrive at the site 1 hours before the interview)



Brush teeth, take a bath



Eat a modest and light breakfast

ON THE INTERVIEW DAY



Clothing, not too much make up (for women).

Wear a jacket or sweatshirt to “protect” your outfit, bring a raincoat in case it rains.



Take all the critical materials which are carefully arranged with you

ON THE INTERVIEW DAY



Before entering the interview room:

- ✓ Turn off your cell phone
- ✓ Empty your bladder
- ✓ Breath deeply and relax

In the interview room:

- ✓ Firm handshake but not too firm
- ✓ Sit down quietly
- ✓ Demonstrate your enthusiasm, knowledge, and real-life experience
- ✓ Use the white board effectively
- ✓ Be concise in your answer, do NOT speak too quickly

ON THE INTERVIEW DAY



Before leaving the interview room:

- ✓ Clean the board
- ✓ Say goodbye and thank you
- ✓ Close the door after leaving

USEFUL TIPS



USEFUL TIPS

USEFUL TIPS



Be confident

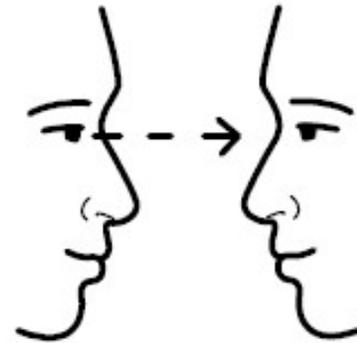


Be honest

USEFUL TIPS



Always smile

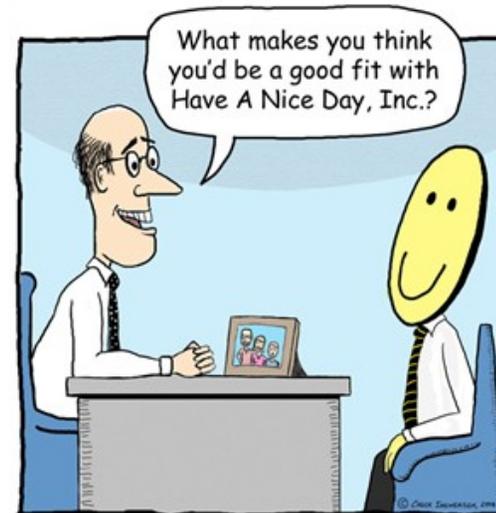


Use eye contact

USEFUL TIPS



Keep control the interview



Nice criticizing

USEFUL TIPS



DO NOT: Speak too quickly and unclearly, or talk too much

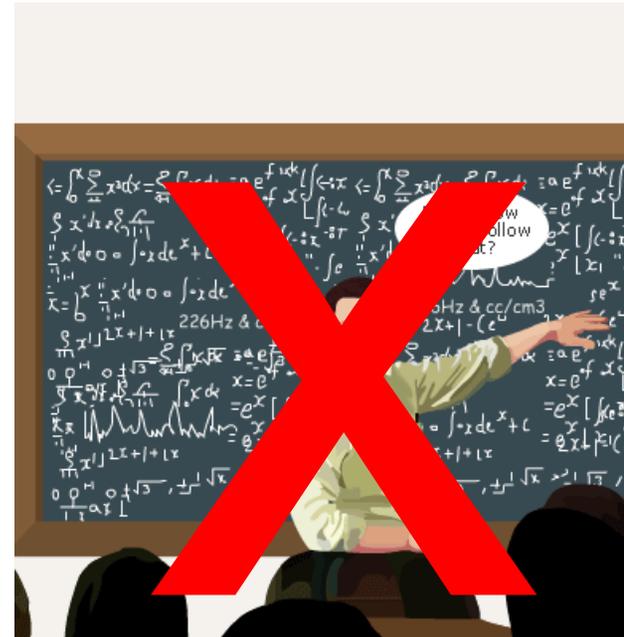


DO NOT make up an answer

USEFUL TIPS



DO NOT: use informal language
(slang, clichés)



DO NOT write down everything on
the board

USEFUL TIPS



How to deal with incidents during the interview
(experiences shared by former VEF fellows)

Incident	Response
You do not understand the question	Ask the professors to repeat or restate the question: "Could you please restate the question?" "If I understand correctly, you are asking about....?"
You do not know the answer of the question	Talk about something related that you know "I do not know much about..., but I know that..."

USEFUL TIPS



How to deal with incidents during the interview
(experiences shared by former VEF fellows)

Incident	Response
The professors do not understand your answer	Repeat your answer slowly, precisely, use the white board with charts or diagrams, etc...
Your answer is wrong	Say "sorry" and answer the question again
The professors mention a weakness in your application	Explain it reasonably or show that you have been working on it => achievements

RESOURCES



- ✓ <http://home.vef.gov/news.php?id=95> Resources for VEF applicants
- ✓ <http://home.vef.gov/download/VEF%20Achievements%20and%20Directory%202011.pdf> Contact of VEF alumni
- ✓ Vietphd.org
- ✓ Usguide.org.vn
- ✓ Usnews.com
- ✓ School websites
- ✓ Consult with other VEF fellows and alumni
- ✓ Google.

LOGO



Thank You !

Q&A