**Tips for getting ready for an interview!**

* Ensure you familiarize yourself with your transportation and plan for any unforeseen delays. Perhaps this means riding your public transit or driving to your destination a week in advance to practice how to get to and from the business effectively.
* Always have at least 1 question to ask the interviewer. A good one to ask is, "What is your favourite part about working for (this organization)?" People love to talk about what they love, and it will leave the interview on a positive note.
* Make a connection story with every question they ask. This means, it is not enough to simply state your answer, but to draw connections between yourself, your experience, and the business or job requirements.
* Take time to think through the answer; you don't need to rush and being thoughtful and intentional shows, you think things through before acting.
* Follow-up within 2 days to express gratitude for the interview and express excitement in hearing about the outcome.
* Make sure you dress professionally; the first expression can be everything. They want to know you would represent their business well.
* Arrive to your interview 15 minutes early. It shows that you are prepared and that the interview is a priority.
* Dress to impress! If you are applying to a store and their uniform is a blue shirt and black pants. Wear a nice blue shirt and black pants if you have them. Show them you already fit in!
* Prepare for the location’s accessibility, which will depend on one's disability. Be clear on what you need from the first point of contact.
* Do not be afraid to ask the employer for example interview questions to help yourself prepare and feel confident.
* The interview is your time to shine! Focus on things you can do rather than the things you cannot do. Your disability is not one of your weaknesses.
* Do not be afraid to open to conversation up to discussing accommodations you may require. You are your own advocate.
* If fretting over an employment gap on your resume... Highlight what you did in this time to better yourself. This includes caring for one's own health, others, completing or upgrading education and attending trainings/certifications.
* Only drink water before and during a interview to assist with not having coffee breath or an odor from another beverage/meal.
* If you smoke, be observant of odors that stick to your clothing. Food and Pet odors are also something we become nose blind to. Have a friend check you before you go in for the big win!
* Shoes Matter! Make sure your look is professional. Sneakers are not the most ideal for interviews.
* Research the company you are interviewing with so you can be as informed as possible.
* Bring extra copies of your resume. You never know how many people will be interviewing you and you can also keep one for yourself to review beforehand.
* You have the chance to make several first impressions and everyone you interact with at the company you are applying to matters.
* Review your answers to some standard interview questions with someone beforehand. The more you practice the more you will remember when you are nervous during your interview.
* It is OK and normal to be nervous. Make yourself smile in the car all the way to the interview. It may sound silly but after a while, it will not be a forced smile and it may help you relax. The superman poses in the elevator if you are alone is also great. You have to smile when you are doing it.
* Practice makes perfect. Practice answers to commonly asked interview questions out loud or with a family member to memorize and highlight strengths and qualities to employer, as well as increase confidence.
* Be confident. Practice the use of positive language (ex, I can vs. I think)
* Tip from the ever-wise Annie: ''You're never fully dressed without a smile'' Smiling can boost your confidence and elevate your first impression.
* In a virtual interview, place a photo of a person you love or something that makes you smile next to your webcam, to achieve the perfect virtual eye contact.
* Create a bullet point preparation document for yourself to read the morning of the interview. This document can include key phrases, information about the business, your way of answering difficult questions, etc.