

InterviewStream Pre-Recorded Video Interview Best Practices...

Congratulations on being chosen to conduct a pre-recorded video interview! We've put together some helpful tips to ensure your success.

Creating a Video-Friendly Environment

It is important to have everything in place before you begin. You want to limit distractions so the focus is on you, not what's in your background. Follow these simple guidelines below to create the ideal background environment:

- Position your webcam at eye-level.
- Proper lighting is essential for high-quality video, so take time to adjust accordingly.
 - The background light should be the brightest in the room.
 - A simple desk lamp can be used as your main light source.
 - Turn on any available lights in the room, close all windows, and check to make sure there is no glare on your monitor.
 - Never use your monitor as your light source.
- Be mindful of your background.
 - Position yourself in front of a wall with neutral colors; avoid patterns, wallpaper, and mirrors.
 - Be sure your recording area is clean, as a tidy workspace conveys professionalism and organization to your potential employer.
 - Turn off all appliances or devices that may create ambient noise or disrupt your interview.
- Your recording space should be quiet and comfortable.
 - Allot yourself ample time to answer each question in your chosen space – depending on the number of questions, 30 minutes to one hour should be sufficient.
 - Eliminate all possible distractions and interruptions - turn off your cell phone and if you're at home, make sure people in the house know you are taking an interview.



Preparing for your Interview

Mental preparation for your interview is just as important as the physical setup. You should prepare for your pre-recorded video interview with the same tenacity and focus as if you were walking into your potential employer's office.

- Practice, practice, practice – before you even turn your webcam on, try practicing by looking into the camera as if you were having a conversation with someone sitting in front of you.
 - In a traditional interview, eye contact is of the utmost importance, so make sure you look directly into the camera to answer the questions posed to you.
 - Do not look at the computer screen when answering questions – this places your line of sight below the webcam and you will appear to be looking down from the interviewer's point of view.
 - It may seem awkward at first, but the more you rehearse looking at the webcam and not the person on the screen, the more comfortable you will feel during your interview.
- Research the organization and ready yourself to answer company-specific questions.
 - Familiarize yourself with the company's mission statement, history, product and service offerings, management, and information about the company culture.

- Look at current events – read their recent press releases so in the interview you can knowledgeably discuss the direction in which the company is going.
- Be prepared to answer any questions about your resume and rehearse your responses.
 - Review your resume and develop multiple talking points around all of your past experiences.
 - Polish your answers – nothing destroys your credibility faster than a constant stream of filler words such as “um”, “like”, and “you know”.
- Dress for success; communicate professionalism with your attire.
 - **Men:** Navy, black, or dark grey suit, long sleeve dress shirt, conservative tie, professional, clean-cut hairstyle, clean-shaven.
 - **Women:** Navy, black, or dark grey suit, coordinated blouse, limited jewelry (no dangling earrings, arms full of bracelets, or anything too distracting), professional hairstyle, light make-up.
 - In general, you should look as if you put considerable time and effort into your personal appearance. Your clothing should be a complement, not a distraction.

Taking the Interview

The most important step in this process is answering the pre-recorded interview questions. Our video interviewing experts have provided some suggestions below:



- Speak clearly and enunciate.
 - You don't want your brilliant answers to be lost because you were mumbling.
 - Don't rush but don't dawdle either – the company that is interviewing you has pre-determined the length of time you have to respond. This information is listed in your invitation to complete the interview, along with an option to re-try your answer (some companies choose not to offer this to emulate a live video experience). Practice answering questions and time yourself to make sure you are answering effectively in the allotted time.
- Listen to each question, contemplate your response, and answer concisely.
 - Make sure you answer the question being asked. Off-base, round-a-bout answers are a surefire way to talk yourself out of a job.
- If you are given the opportunity to retry your answer, attempt to nail down your response sooner rather than later. We have found that more tries may begin to dilute a clear message, so your first or second answer will likely be your best.
- Answer with a headline.
 - The first sentence of your answer should set the tone by restating the question and providing your initial, instinctual opinion.
 - From there, you can add details from your own research, opinions, and experiences. However, you should always make sure to cycle back to your original point and not stray too far off topic.
- Take a deep breath, relax, and let your personality shine through.
 - At the end of the day, employers hire human beings, not just the name at the top of a resume.
 - Smile and have fun – remember, if you are adequately prepared, you will be successful.