

100+ Practice Questions for Teacher Interviews



Bonus Report

Marjan Glavac

<http://www.teacherinterviewtips.com>

Practice Questions for Teacher Interviews with Answer Suggestions

1. What made you decide to become a teacher?

Many teachers discover that their love of children draws them to teaching, or that their own love of learning makes them passionate about teaching. Others are inspired by a role model or mentor from their education who had a positive impact on them personally. Whichever one you choose, be sure to elaborate. Interviewers are looking for how well you address this question not which answer you choose.

2. What is your teaching philosophy?

This is almost guaranteed to be asked in some form. If it isn't asked, try to build it into one of your answers (e.g., "What do you think is most important about teaching?" OR "Tell us about yourself." Or any of the questions in the finale section! Teaching philosophy is an excellent "final words" topic.)

Your teaching philosophy is very important. It is a reflection of your education, your values, and classroom experience.

Often, an interviewer will ask if there is anything else you would like to tell about yourself. This is an excellent place to highlight your philosophy.

If you don't currently have a personal teaching philosophy, now is the time to develop one! Refer to earlier sections in this book on interview skills for examples of teaching philosophy statements.

3. What is your classroom management style?

This is another question almost always asked in some form. This is where your research pays off. You should know the school district's philosophies on classroom management and discipline. Your answer will vary depending on what grade level you are applying for, your teaching style, and your previous experience in the classroom, but it should be compatible with that of the school and/or district. Be sure to let the interview panel know you are aware of their policy.

4. How have you used, or how will you use, technology in the classroom?

With all of the technological advances available, schools are eager to incorporate it into their classrooms whenever possible. It's important to assure your interviewer that you are familiar with and enthusiastic about using available technology. In addition, note

that you are always looking to research new technologies to implement in your classroom, as they become available.

Provide specific examples and show student samples.

6. How have you nurtured student self-confidence?

Be sure to select a good example and provide personal examples of how you have helped a student on an individual basis. Most likely, you were not only helping them with something that they were having difficulty with, but by showing them that they could do it, you also boosted their self-esteem.

7. How can you add to the school's extracurricular activities?

During your interview, you want to show how enthusiastic, positive, and engaged you plan to be at your new school. Once you get the job, you can accept or decline any after school activities based on your schedule and interest. Right now, here's your chance to show how you can help. It is also an opportunity to build in statements about the importance of extracurricular activities and your willingness to work with other staff members as part of a team to deliver quality extracurricular experiences to kids at all grade levels.

8. What questions do you have for the panel?

This is the last question you will probably be asked. Its answer is important as this is your chance to leave a good, memorable final impression. Take the time to research the school district, the school you would be working for, the administration, and the school community. From that research, you will most likely find several questions and comments to make at this time.

This is also your last opportunity to assure yourself that this position is a good fit for you.

Asking questions shows that you are truly interested in the position and the community, and that you have taken the time to do some research. Not only will asking questions show your interest in the school, but learning all you can about the position and the district will help you decide if the position is a good fit for you also.

Things you might ask could include questions about the after school and community sports programs, art or music clubs, and chess, debate, yearbook or academic clubs. It is a good time to build in something the school or district excels at or something they don't have (like a teacher mentor program) where you might be an asset.

You might ask about the school's community involvement or neighbourhood involvement in the school. Mention that you plan to move there and have your children involved in the school.

9. If you could change one thing about your job what would it be? Avoid letting this answer sound whiny or negative. Select something that will help children learn better (like lower PTR or more technology in the classroom). Elaborate to show how this would enhance learning.

This question is a good one to link to your teaching philosophy!

I've divided practice interview questions into sections according to theme:

A: Getting to Know You Questions

1. What makes you a good fit for this job and our school district?
2. If you could change one thing about your job what would it be?
3. In what ways are you qualified for this teaching position?
4. Tell us a little about your professional experiences.
5. What items in your professional portfolio would you most like to share with this interview panel?
6. What prompted you to choose a career in teaching?
7. What three words best describe you?
8. Explain how your philosophy of teaching matches the mission statement of this district?
9. What separates you from others we will be interviewing?
10. Why should we hire you for this position?
11. What is the greatest strength you bring to the job?
12. Who has been your greatest inspiration?
13. What is your greatest flaw?
14. What lasting mark would you most like to leave on your profession?

B: Questions about Your Education and Student Teaching

1. How well has your post-secondary education prepared you for a career in teaching?
2. What was the most useful course you took?
3. What is the most important thing you learned from your student teaching?

4. What was the greatest lesson you learned from an associate teacher?
5. Describe your student teaching experience.
6. What is your greatest frustration about teaching?
7. Teaching is always changing. What is the most exciting change on the horizon?

C: Personal Information

1. Where do you see yourself in ten years?
2. What are your three greatest strengths?
3. Name three of your weaknesses.
4. What is the most satisfying thing for you about teaching?
5. What is the biggest challenge in teaching?
6. What is the scariest thing about teaching?
7. What part of teaching do you look the most forward to?
8. What is the last book you read? When did you read it? Tell us about it.
9. In what ways can you support the extracurricular activities at our school?
10. What are the important aspects of a good staff member?
11. What is your least favorite subject to teach?
12. With what age group of students do you feel least comfortable?
13. Have you ever been a substitute teacher or an in-school volunteer? Describe that experience.
14. What type of professional development opportunities would you find most useful?
15. What professional teaching organization is most helpful to you?
16. What qualities does an outstanding teacher possess?
17. Who has been your greatest inspiration?
18. Describe an instance when you acted as a mentor.
19. What type of student were you in high school?
20. What are your interests outside of teaching?
21. How do you make use of computer and Internet technology in the classroom?
22. If cost were no object, what one thing would you like to see in all classrooms?
23. In what ways are you a flexible person?
24. Why do you want to teach in this school?
25. What will your references say about you when we contact them?

26. What criticism would your most recent employer have of you as an employee?
27. How would one of your students describe you?
28. What community service activities are part of your extracurricular life?
29. How do you hope people will speak of you at your retirement?
30. How do you want your students to view you?
31. Who do you most admire and wish to emulate?

D: Interview Questions about Teaching Style

1. What adjectives would you use to describe your teaching style?
2. Describe an incident where you used positive reinforcement effectively.
3. How do you integrate computer technology into your teaching?
4. Are you a team player? Give us an example of your team skills.
5. How do you allow students to express their creativity in your classroom?
6. Give us an example lesson where you applied Gardner's Multiple Intelligences theory effectively.
7. How do you ensure you students use higher order thinking in your class? Give an example.
8. How do you nurture self-esteem within students?
9. How do you prepare students for province-wide (or state-wide) testing?
10. How do you make learning exciting and fun for your students?
11. Describe a typical lesson.
12. What teaching techniques you use besides direct instruction?
13. What strategies do you use to make sure every student understands the concept?
14. How closely do you follow your lesson plan?
15. Explain how you set up your daybook to incorporate the learning objectives of your lesson plan?
16. How do you incorporate writing into your lessons?
17. Describe the most effective teaching technique you have used.
18. How do you connect your lessons to "real world" experiences?
19. How do you manage classroom noise levels?
20. What is your position on assigning homework?
21. How do you check to ensure homework assignments are done and being done by the student himself?

22. How do you gauge the right amount of homework? How do you know this is a good amount?
23. What strategies do you use to stay current in your field?

Interview Questions about Parent/Teacher Communication

1. How have you communicated with other teachers in your department?
2. Give us an example of effective communication with an administrator.
3. Have you ever used a class newsletter or a blog? Explain how this was effective.
4. How would you deal with an angry parent?
5. How do you communicate with parents on a regular basis?
6. How do you keep parents aware of their son's or daughter's progress?
7. How would you react if a parent complained about your class?
8. What would you tell a parent if he or she was concerned a child's grades?
9. What would you do if you received a note from a parent asking for their son to be excused from last night's homework because the student was too busy with another activity?
10. A student claims he is being abused at home. What legal actions are you required to take?
11. How is your teacher's professional organization useful to your career?
12. In what ways is your teachers' union/federation useful to you as a classroom teacher?

Teacher Interview Questions related to Differentiating Instruction

1. Give an example of how you differentiated instruction in a lesson to accommodate student individual learning needs.
2. How do you accommodate for gifted or high-ability student in your class?
3. How do you manage students with reading disabilities?
4. Explain how you meet the needs of students who have an IEP.
5. How do you feel about integrated classrooms where students of all exceptionalities learn in the same environment?
6. What are the biggest challenges for a classroom teacher with a large number of exceptional students?
7. What is your experience co-teaching or team teaching?
8. How do you accommodate for students whose first language is not English?

9. In what ways are students with physical challenges (mobility, hearing, sight) accommodated in your classroom?
10. How is integrating students with exceptionalities a valuable experience for all students in your class?

Questions related to Classroom Management

1. What is your classroom management style? How do you make it work?
2. What does the ideal classroom look like to you?
3. How do you avoid classroom management issues?
4. Describe a challenging classroom discipline issue you've had to deal with?
5. How do you use behavior modification to deal with recurring misbehavior?
6. Describe the most challenging behavioral situation you've dealt with on the playground.
7. What are your classroom rules?

Final Interview Questions

1. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?
2. Do you have any questions for us?
3. What is the lasting impression with which you'd most like to leave us?
4. When we discuss this interview, what things do you hope this interview panel will say?

Throughout this bonus report several suggestions have been given about how to deal with various questions during an interview. Answers should be specific to YOUR experience, YOUR teaching/learning styles and YOUR philosophy of teaching.

Doing a thorough research of the school, the district, and the community is vital. Knowing as much as you can about each member of the interview team is so useful. Wherever possible refer to something members of the panel value, have made a name for themselves, or want to see happen.

Remember: This interview—and what happens before and after it—is all about proving to this interview panel that YOU are the best person for this job!

Take time to formulate answers to the practice questions. Rehearse answers in front of a mirror. Try the answers out on a colleague or a mentor.

Incorporate them into a mock interview.

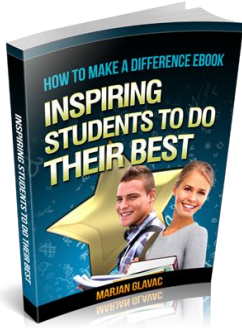
Take the interview and analyze your performance.

Revise anything that still needs work.

Practice! Practice! Practice!

NEXT STEPS:

If you are looking for effective teaching strategies I strongly recommend that you read my eBook: "How To Make A Difference: Inspiring Students To Do Their Best" you'll learn:



- **How to prevent your students from pushing your buttons and stressing you out so you can go home refreshed and rejuvenated for the next day (page 8)**
- **The 7 questions that establish your base of strength in the face of challenges and setbacks. They keep you from the sand trap of depression and make you a more relaxed and effective teacher (page 8)**
- **The single best source of help when dealing with difficult behavior and save you from enormous frustration (p. 16)**
- **How you can easily get parents to open up about their kids and reveal golden nuggets of information that make your job easier (p. 16)**
- **The "Reason Why" method of getting your students to comply. Plus, how to get the students to encourage the "rule breakers" to behave and follow the rules (p.23)**
- **When good students "go bad" and ignore your routine or signals, what do you do? Use this quick and easy tip on page 49 to get your students to relax and calm down**
- **6 keys to building trust and respect through responsibility (p.67)**
- **The 3 questions that help diffuse almost any classroom problem you'll ever encounter (p.77)**
- **44 ways to quench the flames of teacher burnout to enable you to survive and thrive in your teaching career (p.100)**

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Thank you very much for reading my bonus report **100+ Practice Questions for Teacher Interviews**.

If you have any suggestions for improvements or strategies, tips that have worked for you in the classroom, please feel free to share them. My goal is to help all teachers make a difference in their classes.

Stop by [The Busy Educator Facebook Fan Page](#) and feel free to discuss ANYTHING related to teaching!

All the best in your teaching success,

Marjan Glavac

'Talk to each other, support each other, take care of each other.'

Marjan Glavac is a best selling author, speaker and elementary classroom teacher with over 29 years of teaching experience. He is the author of: *The Busy Educator's Guide To The World Wide Web* 1st and 2nd Editions, *How To Make A Difference: Inspiring Students To Do Their Best*, *Teaching Is...Moments That Inspire And Motivate Teachers To Make A Difference* and co-creator of *How to Thrive and Survive in Your Classroom* teleseminar. He is also the creator of one of the Internet's longest running free teacher monthly newsletters: *The Busy Educators Newsletter* (1998).