Dress for Success
Appropriate Attire for a Job Interview
Career Portals
Presentation Notes
Dress For Success

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According to a survey conducted by OfficeTeam of 674 human resource managers at companies throughout the United States, this is some of the strangest interview clothing worn by interviewees.

Ask the following: Why do you think the clothing represented on the screen might not be the best clothing for a job interview? What do these outfits say about the person interviewing for the job? What do you think the interviewer thinks about the interviewee? Do you think the interviewee got the job?
Here are some tips provided by OfficeTeam based on the research from their survey of *what not to do* and *what to do* when choosing clothes for an interview.

Ask the following: Why might it be a good idea to overdress than to underdress for an interview? Why might it be important to choose simple accessories, makeup, perfume or cologne?
Distribute handout Job Interview Do’s and Don’ts (see All Lesson Attachments tab) or have students take out a sheet of paper and # from 1 – 12.

I’m going to show you 12 slides, one right after the other. Each slide will have a number and a different picture. Look closely at the clothing worn by the individual represented on each slide. Ask yourself if what they are wearing is appropriate for a job interview. Write YES or NO on the corresponding number on your handout.

Once I have shown you all twelve slides, you will exchange papers with a classmate and we will review each slide to agree on the correct answers.
Look at the individuals represented on the screen. Take a moment to really look at each person and their clothing. Write down everything you think could be wrong with this outfit in an interview setting.

Appropriate or not? NO

After about five minutes, allow the students to share out loud what they think is right or wrong with the outfits. Discuss with the students why each picture is right or wrong and if it is wrong, how it could be corrected to reflect professional interview attire. Professional interview attire will be discussed in more detail in later slides.

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Clothes and appearance say a lot about a person! It shows you care about the interview and that you are taking it seriously.
Here are some general tips for both men and women: a two-piece suit is always the best and safest choice; bright colors and patterns should be avoided; wear classics like wool or wool blends and always iron your clothes. Both men and women should wear minimal pieces of jewelry.
Always choose classic styles in clothing.
Choose socks that match your pants and do not show skin. Shoes and belts should be a durable leather material. Always match your belt to your shoes. If you choose to display facial hair, be sure it is well groomed.
Clothing for Women

- Skirts/dresses
  - knee-length; should cover thigh when seated
- Shoes
  - Flats or a low heel are best
- Hosiery
  - plain, no styles or patterns, complement outfit

Just as with the men’s attire, a woman should always choose classic styles in clothing. Shoes should be a durable, leather material. Hosiery should be plain and should not be patterned.
For an interview, simple is best when it comes to make-up and nails. Avoid heavy make-up or fancy nails. A small, simple leather purse that matches the outfit is best.
Men and women should be sure to look themselves over before going on an interview. Your personal appearance tells the interviewer how much time you spent preparing for the interview and if you are taking it seriously.
Questions?
Resources and References

Images:
- Microsoft Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Websites:
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Resources and References

- CareerSpots.com (2013). Interview dress for men

- CareerSpots.com (2013). Interview dress for women
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