Interview Role Play

Script #2

This version of the interview should be over-the-top "bad." The candidate should be dressed inappropriately, wearing sunglasses, chewing gum, displaying poor posture, disorganized, late, etc. In fact, the interviewee doesn't pay attention when the interviewer begins – and doesn't realize that the interviewer offered to shake hands because he/she was too busy putting a cell phone in his/her pocket.

Employer: "Did you bring a copy of your resume?"

Applicant:

A resume? Oh, yeah...it's in here somewhere. [Dig around in your pocket or bag until you find a crumpled resume. Smooth out the paper and hand it to the interviewer.]

Employer: "Tell me a little bit about yourself."

Applicant:

Well, I've been taking a little time off lately – traveling around the United States. I'm trying to get one tattoo from every state. I've already got a pretty good start, see? [Show the interviewer your bare arm.]

Employer: "What are your strengths?"

Applicant:

I can talk to anybody...and about any subject! There's never a dull moment when I'm in a room.

Employer: "What are your weaknesses?"

Applicant:

Hmmm, I can't think of anything. Oh yeah, I have a weakness for Rocky Road ice cream. I bet I could eat an entire gallon in one sitting. I also like to sleep late. Really, I'm much more of a night owl than an early bird. Sure the early bird gets the worm, but who wants worms anyway?

Employer: "Why do you want to work here?"

Applicant:

I figured I'd be able to get free meals if I worked for a restaurant. Plus, I'm living at home with my mom and she wants me to pay rent...why, I don't know.

Employer: "Tell me about a recent job or volunteer position you had."

Applicant:

Uh, the last job I had was at a sporting goods store. That was a while ago, though – and it didn't last too long.

Employer: "Why did you leave that position?"

Applicant:

Well, me and the manager didn't always see eye to eye. Sometimes customers were pretty rude when we didn't have the sports equipment they wanted and my manager expected me to be nice to these people when they clearly didn't deserve it. Let's just say I left by mutual agreement.

Employer: "Do you have any questions for me?"

Applicant:

Do your employees get free meals?

From *Skills to Pay the Bills – Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success.* U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy. http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills/. Pages 51-52.