

Teen Job Interview Questions and Sample Answers

1. Why are you looking for a job?

Suggested Answers

I would like to work so that I can earn some spending money. I appreciate my parent's help, but I'd like to have a little more money to spend on my own.

Ever since I could remember, I have looked forward to the day I was old enough to get a job. I cannot wait to start earning my own money so that I can save up for something special, like a car.

Since I will be a senior in high school in September, I am starting to save for the books, supplies, and extra spending money I will need for college.

I am looking for a job because I am trying to save money to pay for a trip that my best friend that I would like to take over winter break or when my work schedule permits.

2. Why are you interested in working for our company?

Suggested Answers

I am interested in working for your company because I am a customer of your store. As a customer, I've gotten to know your company well and appreciate your products and the environment that you've created here in your store. It's important for me to work some place that I admire, and I know that I would be proud to work here.

I would love to work for your company because I have a passion for clothing and design and I plan to study fashion merchandising in college. I try to keep myself up to date with the latest styles and trends, and I feel working for you would enable me to put my passion to good use. I also cannot wait to gain the real world experience I will get from working in your shop.

Because your company works directly with children, is the number one reason I am interested in working with your company. I love spending time with kids and I think kids enjoy spending time with me. Working in your after school program would be rewarding and a lot of fun!

3. How has school prepared you for working at our company?

Suggested Answers

At school, I have to meet daily deadlines, set goals for myself in a variety of subjects and activities, and accomplish them. I believe these experiences will translate to the workplace and will prepare me to excel at your company. At school, I also work with my peers and teachers everyday so I know how to work in teams and with a manager.

I understand the importance of being on time and working within specific blocks of time. One of the most useful skills I gained from my school experience, was learning how to plan, execute, and complete quality work within the time period given. I feel my strong time management skills have prepared for the position you are looking fill.

I have taken a number of computer skills classes in school. I learned many different ways to utilize the technology the computer has to offer. I am proficient in Microsoft Office software, I am comfortable with doing in depth research using the Internet, and I have become familiar with many different types of graphic design software. All these computer skills have prepared me to work for your company.

4. Why should we hire you?

Suggested Answers

I am eager to be one of your best employees and I hope to work for you for a long period of time. The experience I will gain here is invaluable and once the summer is over, I hope we can arrange a schedule that allows me to continue working throughout the school year.

I appreciate the investment your company is preparing to make in me, and I look forward to learning what your company can teach me, and how I can make an impact. My achievements in school and my after-school activities show that I am responsible, trust-worthy, and a quick learner. I know that I can put these skills to good use working for you at your company.

The investment your company will be making in me will not be going to waste. I am already familiar with this market and feel training will not take the amount of time anticipated. I am ready to start as soon as you need me and I look forward to working with a team who shares the same goal as me.

5. What do you think it takes to be successful in this position?

Suggested Answers

I think like, in most jobs, to succeed in this position I'll have to be hardworking, responsible, trust-worthy, and a good team member.

I feel it is important to believe what I am doing is meaningful and that I can make a difference. Keeping these two things in mind only motivates me to work harder.

When working with children, it is important to always make them feel like they are special. To be successful in this position, I will be energetic, creative, and understanding of the various needs of the all the children.

6. How would you describe your ability to work as a team member?

Suggested Answers

I have had many experiences working in a team as a member of my high school athletic program. As a member of my sports team, I understand what it means to be a part of something larger than yourself and how to work with a group to accomplish a shared goal.

As captain of the debate team, I acquired many different team building skills. I learned how critical it is to make every member of the team feel important, included, and motivated to be the best team we could possibly be.

I learned more than I ever expected to when I joined my school's soccer team. As a team, we did things beyond the playing fields like fund raising and volunteer work. It was amazing what we were able to accomplish, as a team, both on and off the field.

7. What has been your most rewarding accomplishment?

Suggested Answers

I am very proud of my high school athletic team's recent league championship. While I was able to accomplish many of my personal goals and set new school records, it was having the whole team come together to win the championship.

My most recent rewarding accomplishment was having my poetry published in a book and having the opportunity to read it out loud to the patrons of the bookstore.

I decided last year I wanted to run a half marathon. With very little running experience, I began my training and became very dedicated to my goal. I am proud to say I completed my half marathon last month and now I am working towards a full marathon.

8. What are your salary expectations?

Suggested Answers

I know that minimum wage is a common base for many hourly positions, but I feel that I am capable of contributing more than most to your company and would like to be fairly compensated.

I did not have any salary expectations when I applied for this job because the job will not only provide a pay check, it will also give me experience in a field I hope to continue to pursue and learn more about.

At my last job, I earned \$7 an hour and they had me on the schedule for approximately 20-25 hours a week. I was hoping to earn something in that same area and I would like to also have a similar amount of hours if that is possible. I am sure you will feel you are getting your money's worth when you see how well I work.

9. Tell me about a major problem you recently handled.

Suggested Answers

Last month, our basement flooded, and my Science and English notebooks were destroyed. I sent an email to my classmates, asking if I could borrow their notebooks during lunch so that I could recreate my notebooks that were destroyed. It only took a week to have two notebooks that were probably better than the ones that were destroyed.

I recently had a school project in which some of my group members did not fulfill their responsibilities. To resolve the issue, the other group members and I split the remaining work and accomplishing the task at hand.

My Creative Writing Club was going to visit the elementary school to read to the children and I also had a tight deadline for an interview assignment for the school newspaper. So, I decided to write my article about the elementary school principal who used to work in the White House and conducted the interview when I was there with my Creative Writing Club.

10. Have you ever had difficulty with a supervisor or teacher?

Suggested Answers

I have never had difficulty with a supervisor or instructor. I've had instructors that I've gotten along with better because of personalities, but I've learned that even when I don't always fully get along with an instructor there is enough in common that I can accomplish what I have to do.

I did have an experience where I thought my new supervisor was unhappy with me. So I made a point to arrive early one day so I could talk to her in private. It turned out, she was not unhappy with me at all and she apologized if she came across that way.

While volunteering at an animal shelter, I noticed my supervisor was not doing what he was supposed to be doing and that he was actually endangering the lives of some of the animals. Right away, I wrote an email to the shelter director, explaining what I witnessed. A few days later I received an email back from the director, thanking me for bringing the matter to their attention. It turns out, they caught the supervisor's actions on tape and fired him.