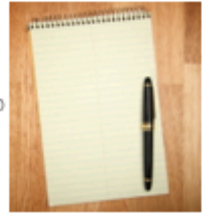




Happy To Find
August 20, 2013

You've made it through your job interview. Congratulations! Now what? After you've taken advantage of the advice in my [previous blog](#) and written down your observations about the company and hiring manager so you can evaluate *them*, your next steps should be trying to remember key parts of the interview and then using what you've learned to prepare for your next interview.



(Photo: Microsoft
Free Clip Art)

The reason I always recommend immediately going to a coffee shop (or somewhere you can quickly and privately jot down notes about your interview) is because we humans are fallible and tend to forget things fairly quickly. Case in point, most people will forget up to **73%** of what we learned within one to two days of hearing it.

So order that vanilla soy iced latte and then write down everything you can remember about the interview, such as:

- The documents you provided the hiring manager (or HR rep) during or right after the interview
- Any issues that came up during the discussion
- Any questions you stumbled on or felt you could have had a better answer
- Any additional documents or pieces of information the hiring manager asked you to provide (ones you didn't have with you and that you'll need to send/email to them later)

Writing all of this down as soon as possible after the interview is important because the longer you wait the more you will potentially forget – and it would not be good if you forgot to email the hiring manager something they requested (like published examples of your writing, for instance).

Next, use what you learned from this interview to prepare for your next one. Ask yourself:

- What went well during my interview?
- What didn't go as well as I'd hoped?
- If I could do the interview again, what would I do differently?

Practice makes perfect (as the old saying goes) – so use your observations to improve your interview skills. For example, one career coaching client of mine realized her morning coffee drinking habit was detrimental to her interviews because the caffeine made her nervous and fidgety. Another client realized she tended to ramble and needed to provide more concise answers when she was asked questions such as, "Tell me about a time when you..."

Everything in life is about learning and experiencing. The best gift we can give ourselves is to slow down enough to realize what we've seen, heard and observed so we can use that information to help ourselves improve for the future. Try to take time to look at what went well and what could be improved in your job interview skills right after each interview. Abraham Lincoln once said, "I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday." Make yourself wiser tomorrow than you were at today's job interview.

~ Lisa Quast

