

How Do I Ask Why I Did Not Get the Position?

When you don't get a job offer, it can be very disappointing of course. You could go off into a corner and lick your wounds, or you can learn from the experience. The second choice is the best one because your job search is not over, and it's now time for **improvement**.

There are two things to keep in mind.

First is the fact that going through the interview process gives you good job hunting and life experience.

Second, you can learn from the interview experience that did not lead to a job so you can improve by the next one. The key is to **objectively analyze** how the interview went and what mistakes you believe you made.

One of the steps in the process of analyzing your interview performance is actually trying to find out why you weren't offered the job. This can be a bit tricky because you don't want to come across as **resentful, shocked, upset**, or even **angry** when you follow up with the employer. But you do want to try to find out how you could have improved or what you could have done differently.

It's Nothing Personal

Following up with the employer is not as difficult as it may seem at first. You need to be **polite** and **respectful**. Your approach should make it clear you are really interested in improving and would appreciate the interviewer's feedback. You can call the interviewer but don't call the interviewer's supervisor. That will make it seem as if you think you can go over the interviewer's head and lodge a complaint.

Constructive criticism is not always easy to take. No one really likes being told what they did wrong. But in this case, helpful feedback from the interviewer may be critical to the future success of your job search. When you decide to call the interviewer for feedback, remember the following.

- Don't take the feedback personally
- Listen to the interviewer carefully and don't get defensive
- Be honest with the interviewer and show you are willing to hear the truth as to how you can improve your interviewing techniques
- Ask all of your questions in a nice way and without any "attitude"

You want to ask the interviewer where you could have improved. Listen carefully to the answer because you will get a lot of valuable information that you can use to prepare for your next interview. For example:

- Were you well prepared for the interview?
- Did you respond well to questions?
- Did the interviewer discover you weren't qualified in some area?
- Were you enthusiastic about the job?
- Did you meet and greet other employer staff members with confidence and poise?

Mind Your Manners

Staying polite and asking follow-up questions politely will ensure you don't burn any bridges. There may be other job openings in the future or the interviewer may have a connection to companies you interview with in the future. *So keep your follow-up as strictly an information gathering session.*

From the recruiter's perspective, giving feedback is not a problem unless you imply that you should have been chosen for the position. *It goes back to attitude again.* When you imply you deserved the job there is a criticism of the interviewer that is part of the implication.

Learning why you did not get the position is good information. If you stay objective and don't ask the questions in an emotional manner, the answers you get to your questions could be the ones you needed to land a job in a future interview. *Don't concentrate on what went wrong. You should concentrate on what you can do right during the next interview!*

The article: *"How Can I Practice For an Interview?"* will give you additional information on ensuring a successful interview.

Regal Resumes has services that can help you prepare for an interview whether it is in-person or on the telephone. See our services page to learn more about how we can assist you in this process.