

## INTERVIEWING TOP 20 WARDROBE MALFUNCTIONS

1. Carrying a backpack or fanny pack instead of a briefcase or portfolio: Some image consultants even suggest women not carry their purse.
2. No sunglasses on top of your head or headphones around your neck.
3. Too short skirts are a big no-no. Your skirt should cover your knees when seated.
4. Don't wear the wrong tie, pattern should be conservative, no less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  wide.
5. Overly bright or large patterned clothing. With the exception of creative fields like advertising or computer programming, it's best to stick with navy, black or gray.
6. Heavy make-up on women or on men!
7. Earrings on men, in fact, men should avoid wearing any jewelry unless it is a watch, wedding or class ring.
8. More than one pair of earrings on women.
9. Facial piercings, tongue jewelry or visible tattoos. If you have them, cover them up as much as possible.
10. Ill-fitting clothes; too tight or too baggy.
11. Unnatural hair colors or styles. Donald Trump was a billionaire long before the comb over.
12. Long fingernails, especially with bright or specialty polishes. They should be clean and trimmed to a length that doesn't leave an observer wondering how you manage to perform routine daily functions.
13. Men, No! No! No!! Short sleeved shirts, especially with a tie.
14. Fishnets, patterned hosiery or bare legs no matter how tan you are. Women should stick with neutral color hosiery that complements their suit.
15. Men whose socks don't match their shoes or whose socks are too short and leave a gap of flesh when seated.
16. Scuffed or inappropriate footwear, including sneakers, stilettos, open-toed shoes and sandals.
17. Strong aftershaves, perfumes or colognes. Keep in mind that some people may be allergic to certain scents.
18. Belts and shoes that don't match. They should be made of leather or leather like materials and the best colors for men are black and cordovan.
19. Wrinkled or stained clothing, if interviewing late in the day, try to change just before.
20. Suits:
  - A. Tell-tale signs that you're wearing a new suit, be sure to remove all tags, extra buttons and remember to cut off the zigzag thread that keeps pockets and slits closed.
  - B. Can't afford a new suit? There are good consignment and second hand stores that have suits that cost a fraction of the cost of a new one! Reuse and save money at the same time!

Don't be a wardrobe malfunction waiting to happen. Plan and lay out what you're going to wear several days before the interview, so you'll have time to shop or get garments pressed and cleaned.

Save innovative or revealing garb for the club or couch and go for crisp clean and professional. Remember, you want the interviewer to be listening to what you're saying, not critiquing what you're wearing.