**Bloopers to Avoid in Job Interviews**

The following bloopers are some tips of what *not* to say during a job interview, based on the first-hand experience (and mistakes) of an administrator in the field.

## Good question, but now let me answer the question I wish you had asked.

Adapted from: Robert J. Sternberg, “12 Bloopers to Avoid in Job Interviews,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* (25 February, 2013)*.* http://chronicle.com/article/Bloopers-to-Avoid-in-Job/137449/

This is not a media interview, it’s a job interview. Address the question posed, or they will assume you can’t, or don’t want to, or, worse, that you are hiding something.

## I have no clue, but I'm sure not going to let you know that.

Better to say “I don’t know” than give a poor or irrelevant answer. But if you find yourself saying it a lot, do more homework or reconsider your chosen field!

## I'm so glad you asked. I've got an excellent lecture on just that question.

Don’t go on and on, even when you are well-prepared with an answer.

## I'm going to keep that face smiling and that head nodding.

Don’t just talk to the person who seems to be agreeing with everything you say. Talk to everyone. It’s the stone faces and the frowners you need to convince.

## A little embellishment never hurt anybody…

Be honest about your record. If you prove to be untrustworthy in one area, they will assume you exaggerated in other areas as well. It is too easy to fact check today.

## I get along with everyone.

Don’t pretend you can make everybody happy. Show who you are. Interviews are about finding good fit, for you and for them.

## Weaknesses? Me?

Know your weaknesses (and strengths) and how to discuss them. Show where you are working to improve. They know you aren’t perfect. Show them you know that as well.

## I've got this great new technology for my talk.

Don't use an interview to experiment for the first time with a new technology. If you do use technology, try to ensure it will work, but have a backup plan in case it doesn't.

## What a dumb question.

Answer every question thoughtfully and politely, no matter how weak or strange it may sound. You never know who is asking, or why!