

An Interviewer's Perspective

A: So how was your day?

B: Ohhh I have had such a long day. I had to interview ten different applicants for the internship position and I'm exhausted.

B: Wow, so how'd they do?

A: Oh man, **it is such a pet peeve of mine when someone turns in a generic cover letter and resume.**

B: I can't believe that people actually do that.

A: I know. When they don't even **take the time to tailor their application materials** to our company then I usually know that they are not going to impress me even before they walk in the room.

B: The economy isn't doing well. I am sure there are still a lot of people out of work and I bet a lot of students and recent grads would die for that internship.

A: Yeah, that's why I'm surprised that some people completely overlook that as **an opportunity to stand out.**

Key Vocabulary Phrases

1. **"It is such a pet peeve of mine when someone turns in a generic cover letter."**

2. **"...take the time to tailor their application materials."**

3. **"...an opportunity to stand out."**

4. **"The last thing you want is to get blindsided."**

5. **"She followed up this afternoon with a 'thank you' email."**

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B: Well tailoring your resume isn't exactly a way to stand out. Isn't it more of a basic requirement?

A: Absolutely. I need to know that they've at least checked out the company online and that they have an understanding of our values, our vision and what's coming up for us in the future.

B: Yeah, definitely and it makes sense from the applicant's perspective too. I mean, **the last thing that you want as a job hunter is to get blindsided** with questions about the company's vision or their competitors or their past media

coverage. You should know that stuff going in.

A: Right...the bottom line is this: if you don't have a basic understanding before you go into the interview, you are in trouble.

B: Well did you get any decent applications at least?

A: Well, yeah there was one woman who seemed promising. **She followed up this afternoon with a 'thank you' email** and I might invite her for a second interview over lunch.

B: Great, well I have an interview coming up next week so now that I have heard this from you, I am going to take a lot of time to investigate the company before my interview.

A: That's probably a good idea. Good luck with your interview!

B: Thank you!

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