IT’S ALL ABOUT THE SUIT

Yes, whether you are male or female, you need to wear a suit to an interview, except a woman may wear a solid, plain dress with a jacket (not a sweater) over it.

The color should be black, gray, navy or brown and solid or with a very subtle pinstripe.

The button-down shirt should be white, cream, ivory, beige, light gray, light blue or black. Shirts should be tucked in and cuffs buttoned or held together with cufflinks. Men, you should make sure all the buttons are buttoned; women, you may leave the top one or two undone.

Women, you alternatively may wear a sleeveless shell but it should not be low cut. Ladies, you may wear a suit with pants or a skirt but make sure the skirt’s hem hits right above the knee, is not too tight, the hem is not in need of repair and that you wear hosiery with it.

Anyone wearing pants, make sure the length is just to the top of your shoe with a slight break in your pant leg.

Last tips: make sure all clothes are clean, pressed, free of rips and stains, you have removed all tags and packaging from new garments, and you have cut the threads on basted pockets. Make sure all buttons are lined up when you button them and be sure to check your zipper one last time! Good luck!

NOW ADD THE ACCESSORIES

Men, you need to wear black or brown leather tie shoes. Yes, it is Texas but cowboy boots are never an acceptable form of interview footwear.

Women, you should wear black, gray, navy, brown, taupe or neutral closed-toe flats or pumps. No peep-toes, sling backs, open backs or sandals. Heels should not be over 2½ inches high. Be sure the color of your shoes and belt match, guys.

All shoes should be polished.

Ladies, if you have a visible panty line, it means your pants or skirt are too tight. Buy a larger size. The same advice applies if you have a gap in between buttons in your shirt. Yes, you can use fashion tape but it’s better to either wear a sleeveless shell or buy a bigger size shirt to avoid the problem.

Finally, yes, saggy pants can be a fashion statement for you men but it’s not appropriate for an interview. Pull up your pants and use a belt.

Leave the backpack and cell phone at home. Take a portfolio or briefcase and, women, a small purse is acceptable.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES

Women, pull your hair back and let the interviewer focus on what you are saying. Everyone, please control fly-away hair. Men, avoid facial hair unless it is for religious or skin reasons. Then it should be neatly trimmed and groomed. All of you should touch up your roots if you dye your hair, avoid unnatural hair color and avoid wearing glasses or sunglasses on top of your head.

Avoid perfume, cologne or aftershave.

Jewelry should be minimal. A watch, wedding ring, and a class ring. Ladies, you alone may wear one conservative small necklace or a conservative strand of pearls (real or fake) and one pair of stud earrings. Both: no piercings (other than women’s earrings), gauges or grills.

Women, use light makeup and nail polish color should be light and without a pattern.

Everyone should cover up tattoos, make sure your nails are not chewed or too long.

Be sure to wear deodorant, brush your teeth, gargle and use breath mints. Don’t chew gum or tobacco during an interview.

Smokers, spray your suit with Febreeze and air it out. Alternatively, store it at a house without smokers.

Follow these tips and nail that interview!