

The :30 WOW!

Dr. Grandin's Interview Tips for those with Asperger Syndrome



Temple's Suggestions:

Don't go into an interview cold turkey...prepare a well thought out presentation!

Neatly show your work, presentations, articles, etc.

Wow them with your work examples in :30!





I designed the entire front page of every Cargill meat packing magazine. I sold (got) that job in the late 80's by sending a professional brochure, a big fold-out drawing, pictures of jobs in professional sleeves, professional cover letter, a couple of references and an article I wrote from a meat packing magazine. Hint: Don't put too much junk in your presentation. I call it the :30 WOW. When Mr. Fielding, (the Chairman) opened it up...**I was hired!**



Looking Your Best Is Important

Pay as much attention to is what you are wearing, it's important to the employer! Some suggestions to consider:

- Due to sensory issues, you may prefer to wear loose fitting, soft and comfortable clothing. This may not be an issue most of the time, but work environments often tend to be more formal.
- Are your fingernails trimmed short and cleaned? You may not notice but your interviewer will.
- Never dress casually to a job interview. Make sure your clothes are clean and not wrinkled. Men should at least wear a button-down shirt and tie with slacks (not jeans!) and dress shoes. For an office job, a suit jacket should be worn as well. For women, a pair of dress pants and a nice blouse will do, with the option of adding a blazer for a more formal environment.
- Hygiene is also an important factor in making a good first impression. Make sure you shower the morning of the interview, wear deodorant and brush your teeth. Many workplaces are scent-free because of employees who are sensitive to smell, so skip the cologne and perfume.
- Men should get a haircut a day or so before the interview and women's hair should be neatly styled.
- If in doubt, get a second opinion from a friend or family member about whether or not your outfit is interview appropriate.

Ask Questions during the Interview

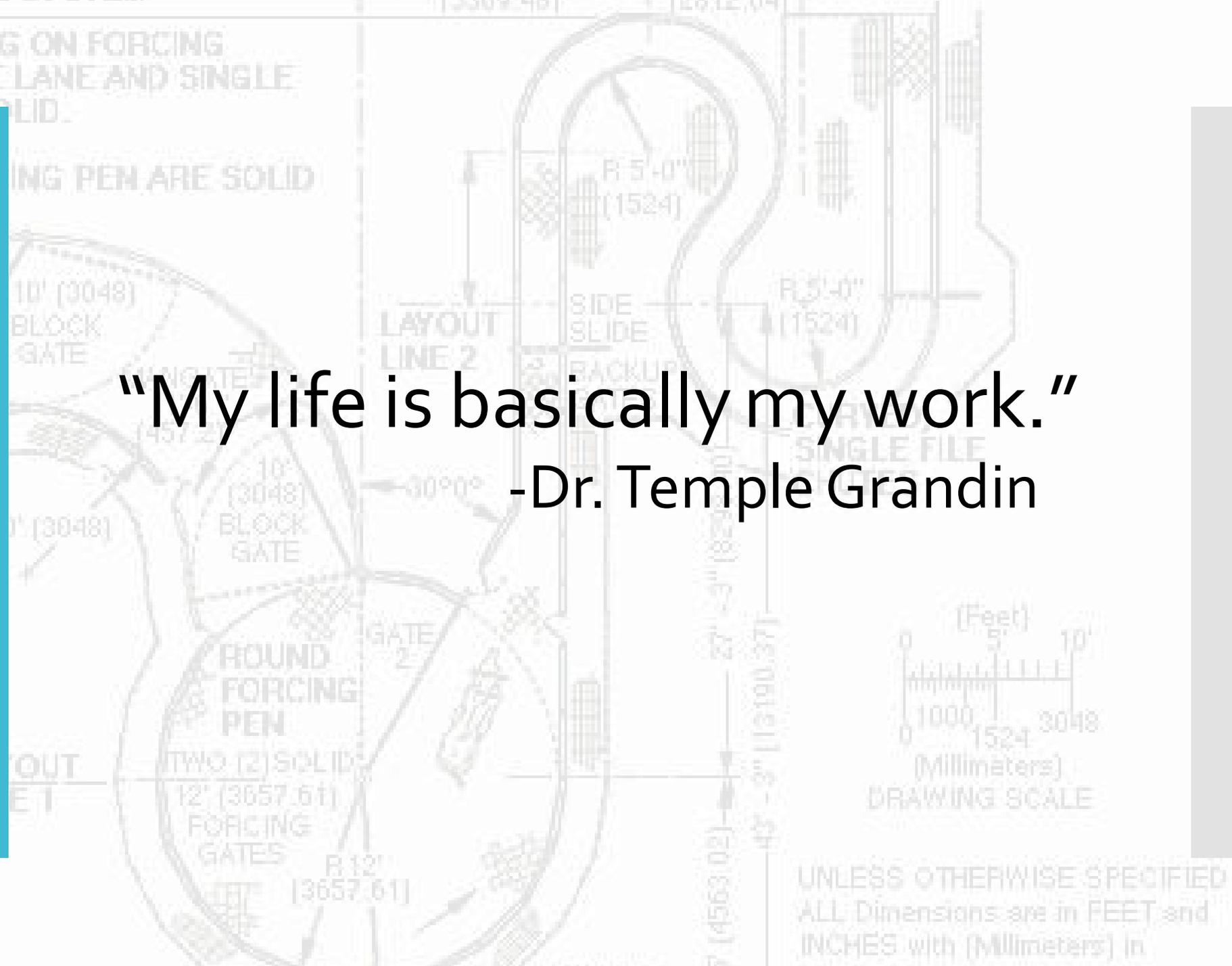
Good questions are open-ended, and should not be answered with a simple “yes” or “no.”

If you are having trouble developing questions, consider the following samples as food for thought to help you consider your own questions. You do not need to ask all of these, *just pick two questions that you feel are relevant.*

- What are the various ways employees communicate with one another to carry out their work?
- How will my leadership responsibilities and performance be measured? By whom?
- What are the day-to-day responsibilities of this job?
- What are some of the skills and abilities necessary for someone to succeed in this job?
- What is the company’s policy on providing training so employees can keep up their skills and acquire new ones?
- What particular computer equipment and software do you use?
- What kind of work can I expect to be doing the first year?
- How and by whom will my performance be reviewed? Are there specific criteria upon which I would be evaluated? And how frequently is formal and informal review given to new employees?
- How much guidance or assistance is made available to individuals in developing career goals?
- Can you describe an ideal employee?

Good news is you will excel at work if you are following your life's passion! Follow your obsession. You can learn work etiquette.

“My life is basically my work.”
-Dr. Temple Grandin



Remember the :30 WOW!

- Be Prepared -practice your greeting and what you will say and ask during the interview
- Show Your Work – Bring samples of your very best work
- Dress appropriately – Be clean and neat in your appearance
- Look you interviewer in the eye and thank them with a firm handshake at the end of your interview.

