

The Interview

*A short game for 2 players
by David Hertz*

A brand new spirit, weighing options for its journey through life, sits down with a melancholy corporate executive for an informational interview about human existence.

To Play This Game You Will Need

2 players

About 30 minutes

A place to meet, perhaps a coffee shop, your home, or Skype

The Invitation

Decide which human you would like to join you for the game, and invite them to play. It is polite to schedule your interview in advance. Send your contact an email with the game rules and their choice of a few possible meeting times and places. Also, decide which of you will play the spirit, and which will play the executive. A sample interview request email is included at the end of the rules. If you are impatient and already with the person you'd like to interview, simply invite them for an impromptu game. This may be considered rude.

Before The Interview

Once you have arranged the interview, each player should read and follow the instructions for their role to prepare.

The Spirit

You are a new spirit, freshly graduated into existence and weighing your options for life. Though you have no skills or experience, your advisor suggested you look into the growing field of humanity. You have no idea what to expect. This is your first interview, and you are full of hope. Maybe you'll land a new life right here.

Write down an existential objective that describes what you hope your life will be like in one sentence. Then write down a list of 8-10 questions, factors you'd like to know more about when making a decision about whether or not to pursue a human existence.

The Executive

You lead what your culture considers to be a quite successful life, but though you keep it to yourself, you feel a deep sense of disappointment with your existence. Maybe you abandoned your artistic dreams, or let important relationships slip away. Maybe you haven't reconciled yourself with mortality. There aren't any openings that you know of, and even if there were you don't make those decisions. Still, you took this interview as a courtesy after the spirit was referred to you by an old friend from school.

Before the interview, create a short resume of 3-5 of your chief accomplishments and disappointments in life. Include a few bullet points with each to describe how you felt/feel about those parts of your life.

During The Interview

Meet at your appointed time and place, in character. The corporate executive should offer whatever hospitality they have available.

Spirit

- Your job is to ask questions and find out about the nature of human existence.
- In character, be hopeful and enthusiastic.
- Out of character, drive towards the executive's disappointments with your questions.
- Use your prepared questions, but go off the list if a more interesting question arises.
- It is rude to take more time than you originally agreed to; end the meeting at 30 minutes even if you have questions remaining, unless the executive agrees to continue.

Executive

- Your job is to answer the spirit's questions about the nature of human existence.
- Share your resume with the spirit.
- Answer questions openly and honestly.
- Always try to put a positive face on things.
- Sometimes the above principles will conflict.

After the Interview

After the meeting ends, go about the rest of your day as normal. It is polite to send your counterpart a thank you email. Make your email brief but personal by mentioning something specific they did that you found interesting or useful.

Sample Interview Request Email

Subject: *The Interview* Request

David Hertz, designer of *The Interview*, suggested I contact you and sends his regards. I admire your gaming career, and I would like to sit down with you for a 30 minute mini-game about an existential informational interview. Please find the rules attached.

I understand that your gaming schedule is very busy. Here are some times and places that would work for me:

[List 2-3 times and places]

Let me know if you can fit this game into your schedule. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
[Your name]