

Portfolio 1 & 2

Presentation Tips

Do's

Start With...

Hello, my name is..., thank you for taking the time to review my portfolio with me.

Frame the conversation

Before diving into your work, talk about your focus or your objective. If you really want to do interaction design, say so. If you are on a job interview, this is a good place to say what it was about the job posting that intrigued you.

Lead with your best work

Always start with your most impressive work, or work you are most proud of right now.

Talk about your success

As you present any individual piece, talk about what was challenging and how you met those challenges. Talk about the tools you used and the expertise you brought to the project.

Talk about process

Paint a picture for your audience of what it was like to work on a specific job or project. Use sketches, mockups, wireframes - anything that can help tell that story. For any employer, the question is not only, is the candidate qualified, but also, what will it be like to work with him or her.

Take questions or suggestions

When questions come up, let the conversation leave what you have scripted. Be flexible.

It's about quality, not quantity

Plan to show and talk in depth about only a few pieces. Three or four is plenty. You can have more in your portfolio, and they may come up in conversation.

Practice your presentation

No one wants their presentation to sound rehearsed, but the only way to get to that place is to practice it and to time yourself. Practice it out loud. This can feel silly, but do it anyway. Good places to practice are in the shower or while driving down the highway.

Remember, you are looking for a match

Keep in mind that you are also interviewing the potential employer. Watch for red flags. Also, remember you are not asking them for a favor; you are there to add value to their organization.

Thank your audience at the end.

End with: Thank you for taking time to look at my portfolio today.

Don'ts

Avoid apologies

Avoid saying things like, "I'm sorry this does not look very good," or, "this isn't finished," or, "this is so small," or other apologies for your work. Don't draw attention to its weaknesses.

Don't worry about being nervous

It is normal to be nervous. People expect it. It can make you feel better to state out loud that you are nervous.

Watch out for fidgeting

Snapping pens, tapping your foot, chewing gum, jumping around, gesticulating wildly are generally not attractive and will put people off. Stay calm and relaxed and confident. Be yourself.

Watch the UMMS and AHHS

If you rehearse your presentation, this won't be a big problem. This becomes a problem when you are winging it and you have to think about what you want to say, while you are delivering the presentation.

Don't wear clothes that make you uncomfortable

If you don't feel comfortable wearing a suit, don't wear one. Your physical discomfort will hinder you and negatively affect your interview.

Avoid distractions

Try not to skip around or rush through an explanation. It's ok to answer a question or get sidetracked if it helps achieve your goal. If not, ask if you can return to the question later.

Don't be afraid to say you don't know

There is no reason to lie, or make stuff up on the spot. People respect honesty and candor.

Don't argue

You may get suggestions on specific pieces. Don't argue against them. Clarification is fine, but arguing is not.