THE KEY:
The most important thing to think about when deciding what to wear for an interview is to make sure you are dressing the part and playing the role of your future job. Whether it’s at a law firm, an investment bank, a talent agency, a job in fashion or gig in the arts, know your audience and what is appropriate.

FOUR SIMPLE RULES:

Rule #1: You never get a second chance to make a first impression.
Your potential new boss is sizing you up the second you walk into that room. Always dress like a professional and always dress to impress. In formal workplace cultures, such as finance or law, this would mean a suit or a conservative dress, complete with dress shoes and coordinated belt or purse. In casual workplace cultures, such as a software start-up or creative agency, nice jeans and a blouse or button down shirt would be just fine, and colorful sneakers may even be welcome. No matter what the appropriate attire, make sure you are put together, well laundered, and well tailored.

Rule #2: Wear what makes you feel the absolute best.
Wear something that you know you will feel great in! You do not want to over dress by any means, but note how your demeanor can instantly change when you put on an outfit in which you personally feel your best (hence the term ”power suit”). Feeling confident at an interview will make it that much more likely for a potential employer to be confident in your candidacy.

Rule #3: Make sure to bring a potential change of clothes with you.
You never know what the day can bring – coffee spilling on your white blouse, or oil from your lunch splattering on your new tie. You want to avoid showing up with a stain on your outfit so always be prepared with a backup option.

Rule #4: Give yourself time to prepare.
Allow yourself extra time to get ready before your interview so you leave feeling calm, cool and collected, not rushed and disheveled. Allowing for a few minutes with an iron or lint roller can also make a huge difference.

Bonus Tip! If you think that settling on the perfect outfit may be a challenge, try on looks the night before to alleviate added stress before you walk out the door.

Rule of Thumb:
Always dress one level nicer then what would be expected for daily wear at the office interviewing you.
CATEGORIES OF PROFESSIONAL DRESS:

EXECUTIVE/BUSINESS FORMAL
- Suit or blazer with dress pants, dress shoes
- Women: a conservative dress with blazer or skirt suit would also be appropriate
- Men: tie required

BUSINESS CASUAL
- Collared shirt or sweater with nice jeans or khakis, dress shoes or other stylish footwear
- Women: a skirt or dress would also be appropriate
- Men: no tie required

PROFESSIONAL/BUSINESS
- Collared shirt or sweater with dress pants, dress shoes
- Women: a conservative dress or skirt would also be appropriate
- Men: tie optional

CASUAL
- Comfortable shirts or sweaters with casual pants/jeans, comfortable shoes or sandals
- Women: a casual skirt or dress would also be appropriate
- Men: shorts may be welcome as well

WEAR A PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE AS WELL:
Dressing professionally is only an asset if you’re also conducting yourself professionally. At any workplace, formal or informal, make sure to show:
• Respect • Integrity • Honesty • Dependability • Positivity • Punctuality

PROFESSIONAL FIT & FASHION:
Quick tips to make sure you look your best while you’re professionally dressed

1. Even the most expensive suit will look frumpy if it’s not well fitting. Consider paying a little more for a suit from a retailer that will include tailoring at no extra charge.

2. Professional dress can also be fashionable, as long as you choose trends that are consistent with the standard of dress expected in your workplace. When paired with neutral colors and conservative silhouettes for example, accessories such as jewelry, ties, belts and even dress socks can provide a fun and appropriate place to add your own sense of style.

3. For women it’s especially important to maintain modest hemlines and necklines, whether in a casual or formal setting. Make sure skirts and dresses are no shorter then an inch or two above the knee, and showing cleavage is never appropriate. Bare backs and shoulders should be considered off-limits as well.

4. For men, make sure pants fit well at the waist (or shorts if a casual office), or be prepared to don a belt.