

# Planning for grant writing and the academic job market

Angela Gibney • Rutgers • [angela.gibney@gmail.com](mailto:angela.gibney@gmail.com)



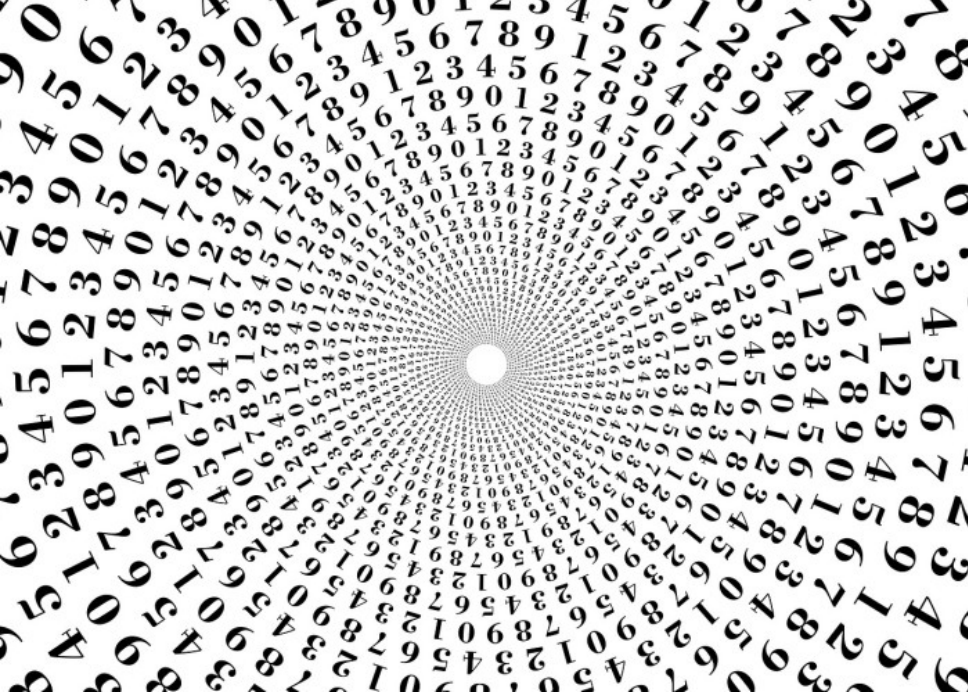
Here I will go over:



Here I will go over:

- planning your time;
- websites and CVs;
- interviewing for jobs;



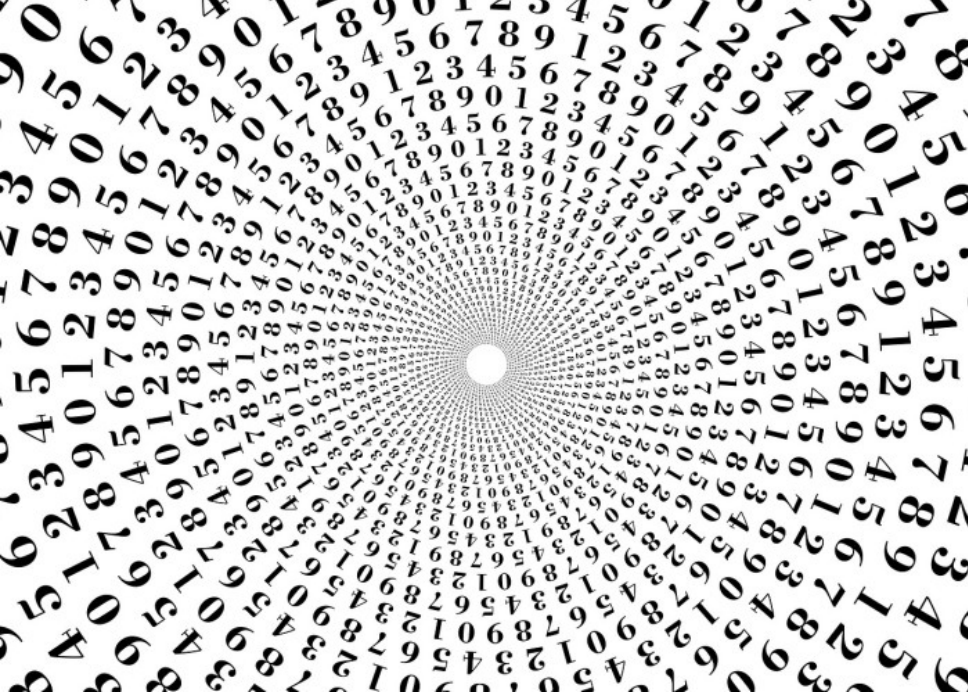






TIMING!



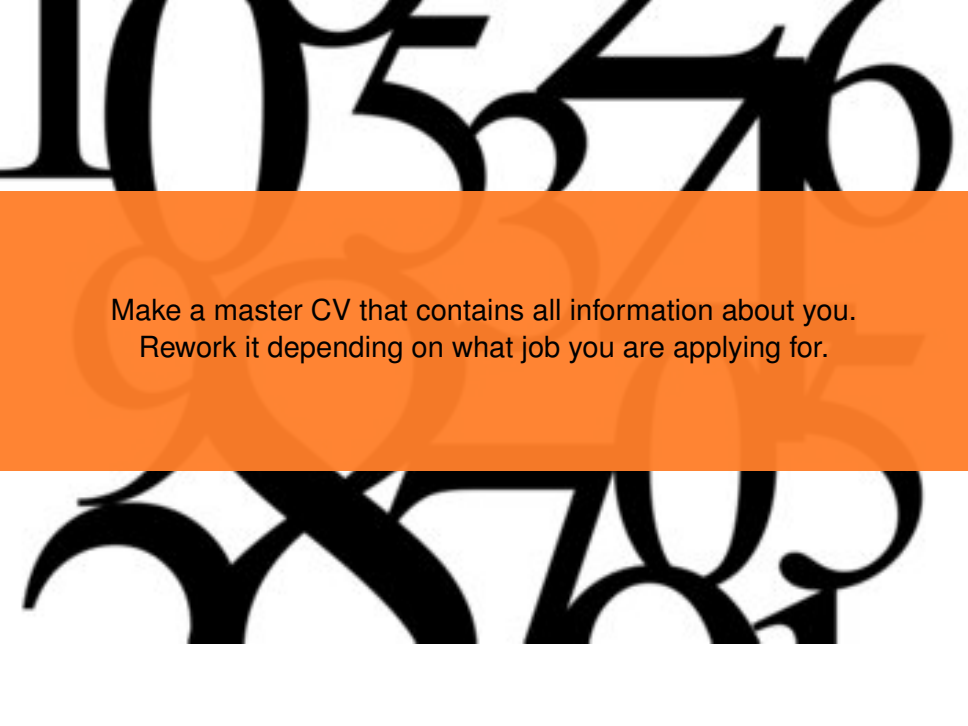






YOUR CV





Make a master CV that contains all information about you.  
Rework it depending on what job you are applying for.





Start a CV early in your career, and try to modify it every month.



Some free downloadable latex CV templates:



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`http:`

`//www.latextemplates.com/cat/curricula-vitae`



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https:

[//www.sharelatex.com/templates/cv-or-resume](https://www.sharelatex.com/templates/cv-or-resume)



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`latex-resume-examples/`



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<http://jblevins.org/projects/cv-template/>





CONTENT FOR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS?



- Education and awards
  - Seminars you attend
- Information about your teaching
- Community service and other activities.






**Information about your research could include:**







**Information about your research could include:**

- description(s) of your project(s),
  - supporting examples, calculations, or code
    - slides from talks
- 



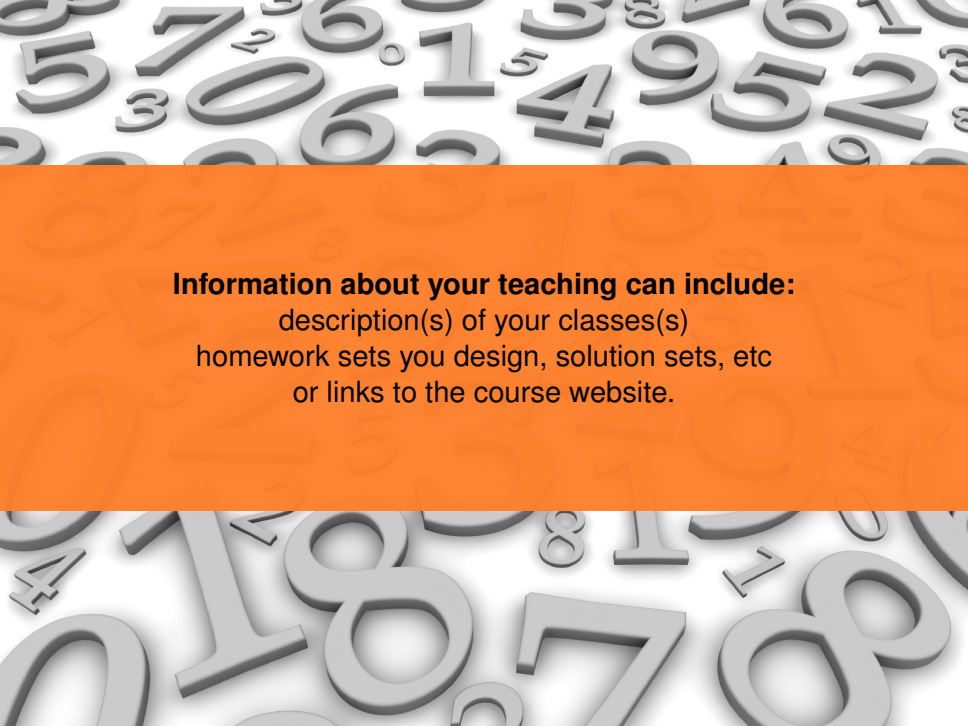
**If you have publications, then include:**



**If you have publications, then include:**

- your author page on MathSciNet,
  - your arxiv page,
- your Google Scholars page, and
- links to the journals, where your papers can be found



The background of the slide is a light gray surface covered with numerous 3D-rendered numbers (0-9) of varying sizes and orientations, creating a textured, mathematical effect. A solid orange horizontal band is positioned in the center of the slide, containing the text.

**Information about your teaching can include:**  
description(s) of your classes(s)  
homework sets you design, solution sets, etc  
or links to the course website.



The slide features a central orange rectangular area with a pattern of small, semi-transparent orange dots. Above and below this orange area are horizontal bands of solid black dots of varying sizes, creating a decorative border.

Some CV writing advice:





Some CV writing advice:

`http:`

`//theprofessorisin.com/?s=cv+writing&x=0&y=0`







Some CV writing advice:

`http:`

`//theprofessorisin.com/?s=cv+writing&x=0&y=0`

`http://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/files/ocs/files/  
gsas-cvs-and-cover-letters.pdf?m=1438033280`








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`http://mathoverflow.net/questions/79044/  
what-items-must-appear-on-a-mathematicians-cv`







## Some CV writing advice:


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<http://mathoverflow.net/questions/79044/what-items-must-appear-on-a-mathematicians-cv>

<http://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog/2013/nov/01/academic-cv-job-10-mistakes>





The image features a large, solid orange circle centered on a white background. The background is filled with a dense, repeating pattern of black numbers (0-9) in a sans-serif font, arranged in a circular, slightly overlapping manner. The orange circle is the primary focus, and the text 'YOUR WEBSITE' is centered within it.

YOUR WEBSITE



The background of the slide is a dark grey or black field filled with various white numbers (0-9) in different fonts and sizes, creating a dense, abstract pattern. A solid orange horizontal banner is positioned in the center of the slide, containing the text.

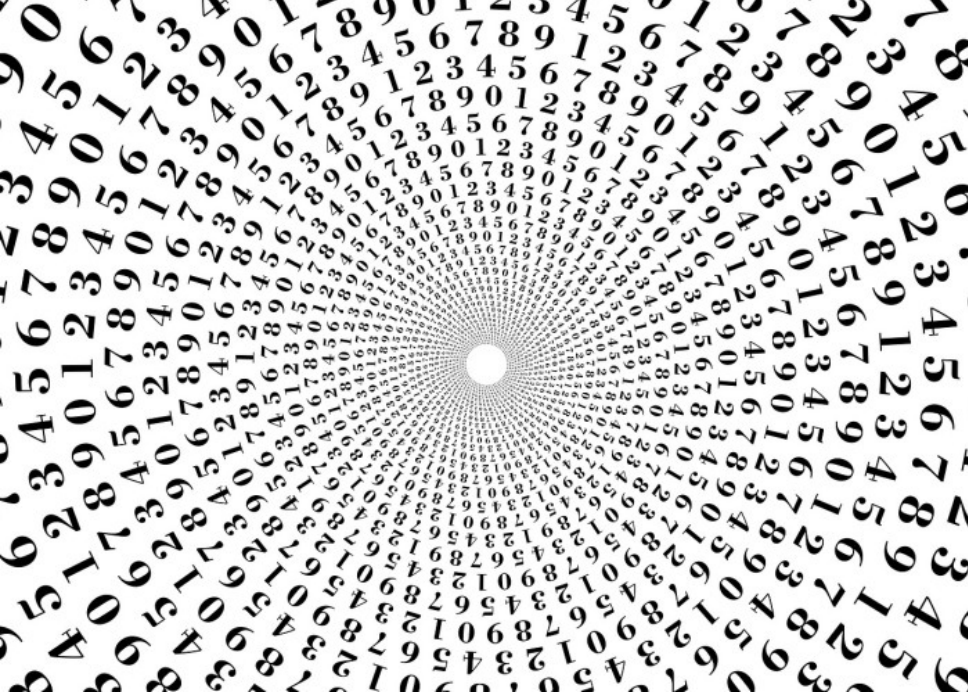
**Your website can make your job application come alive.**



The background features large, stylized black numbers (1, 0, 5, 4, 6) and abstract shapes. A solid orange horizontal band spans the middle of the image, containing the text.

Your website can convey that your work is current, and that you put value into communicating with others.










CONTENT?



- 
- The slide features a decorative border at the top and bottom composed of various mathematical symbols and numbers in white and black. The central area of the slide is a solid orange color, serving as a background for the text.
- A picture?
    - A CV
  - Information about your research, teaching, and community service



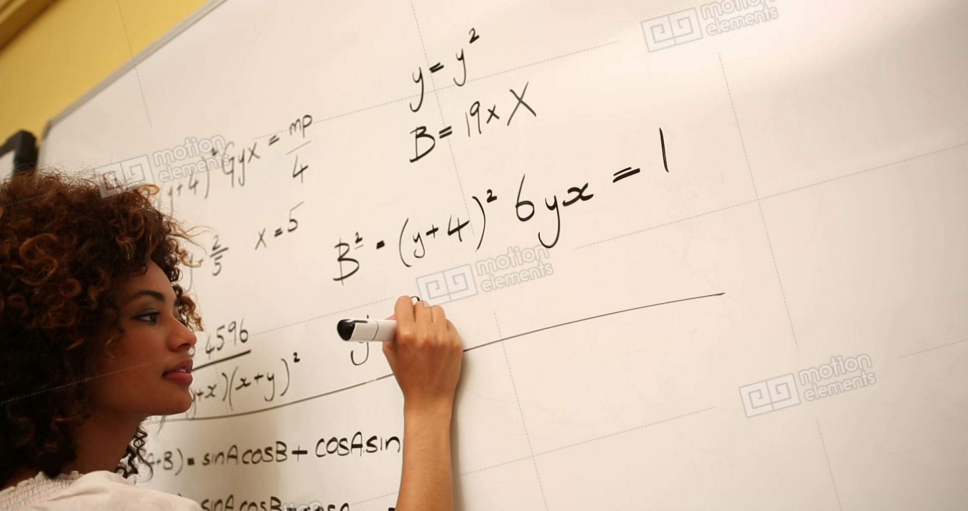


Here are some examples of good webpage pictures:

<https://math.berkeley.edu/~bernd/>










$$A + \frac{1}{25} I^2 + J_9^2 (\cos \rho - 1) + \varepsilon f(a) (\cos \rho - 1) + \varepsilon' n /$$

time elapsed

$$\Delta \alpha + \omega t \quad 704.28^2 + ((\Delta \cdot 17 \alpha \varepsilon + 5^2) /$$


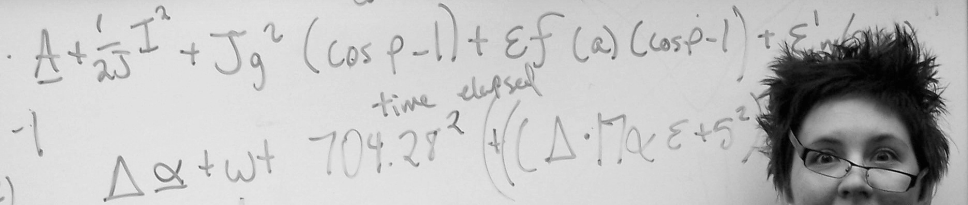
$$b, b' > 0 \quad (b = 2, b' = \frac{1}{2} - \delta \Delta)^{2\frac{1}{2}} \quad \varepsilon \text{ where}$$

Schubert

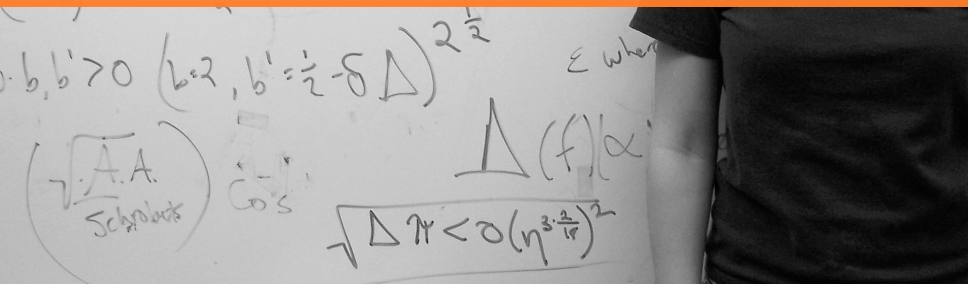
$$\Delta(f) | \alpha$$

$$\sqrt{\Delta \pi} < o(\eta^{3 \cdot \frac{2}{17}})^2$$

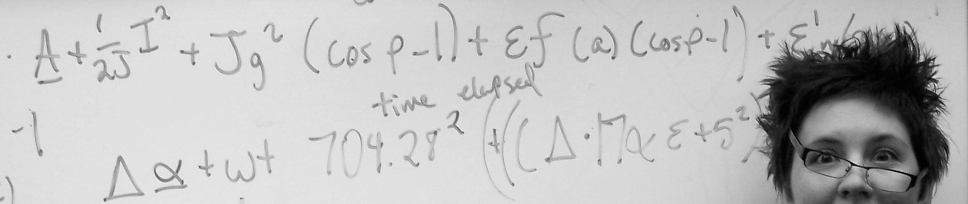




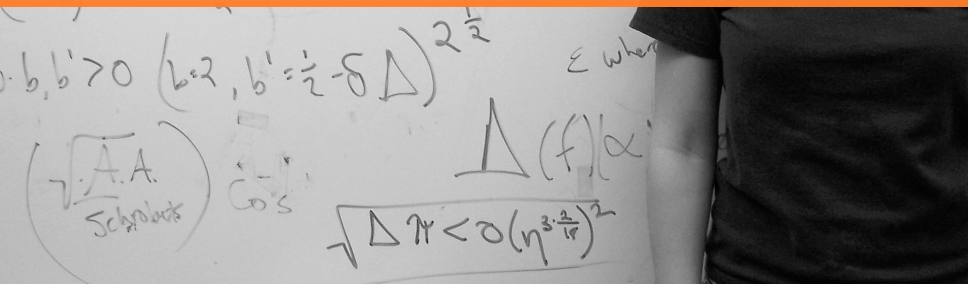
How does it look to her students?



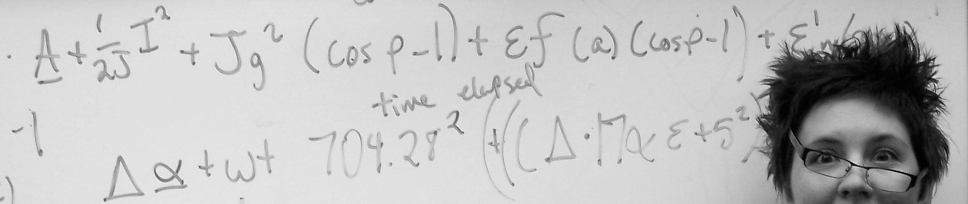




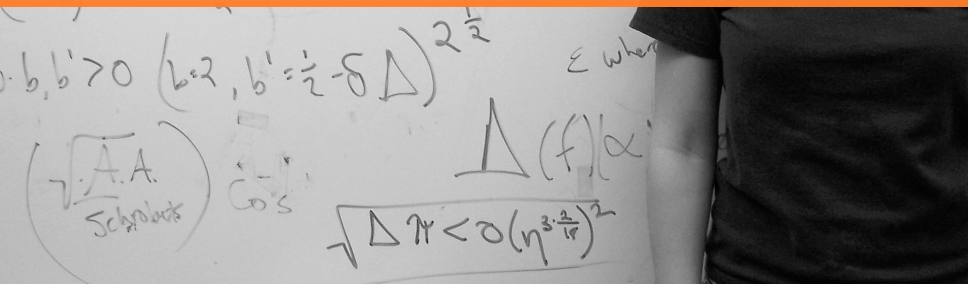
How does it look to her students? colleagues?







How does it look to her students? colleagues? the NSF panel?







**And obviously:**







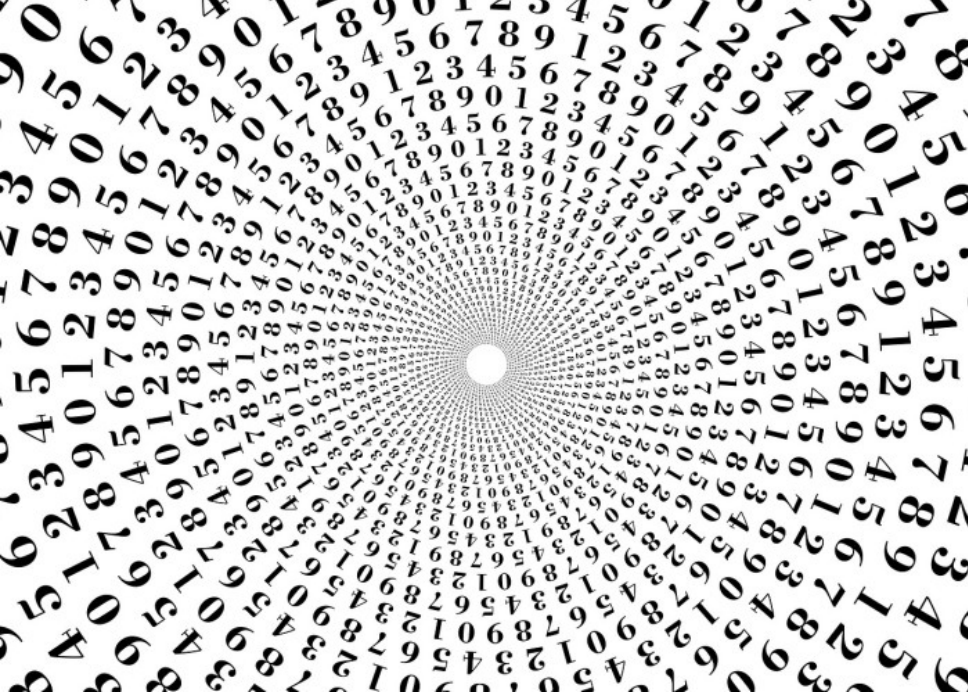
**And obviously:** No inappropriate webphotos!!





You need to have your CV on your website.



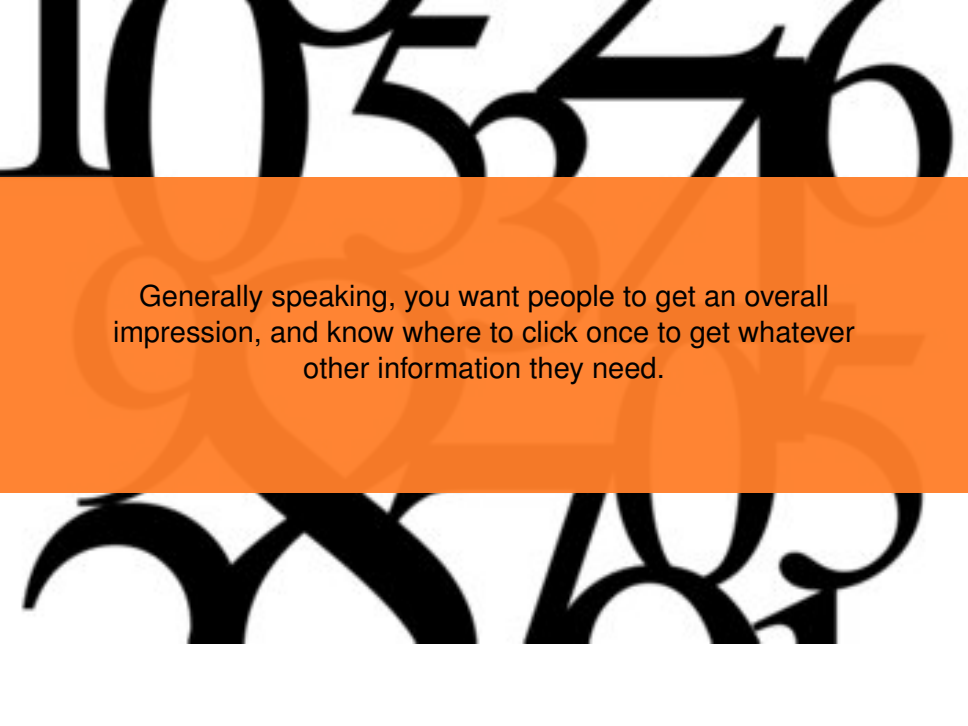






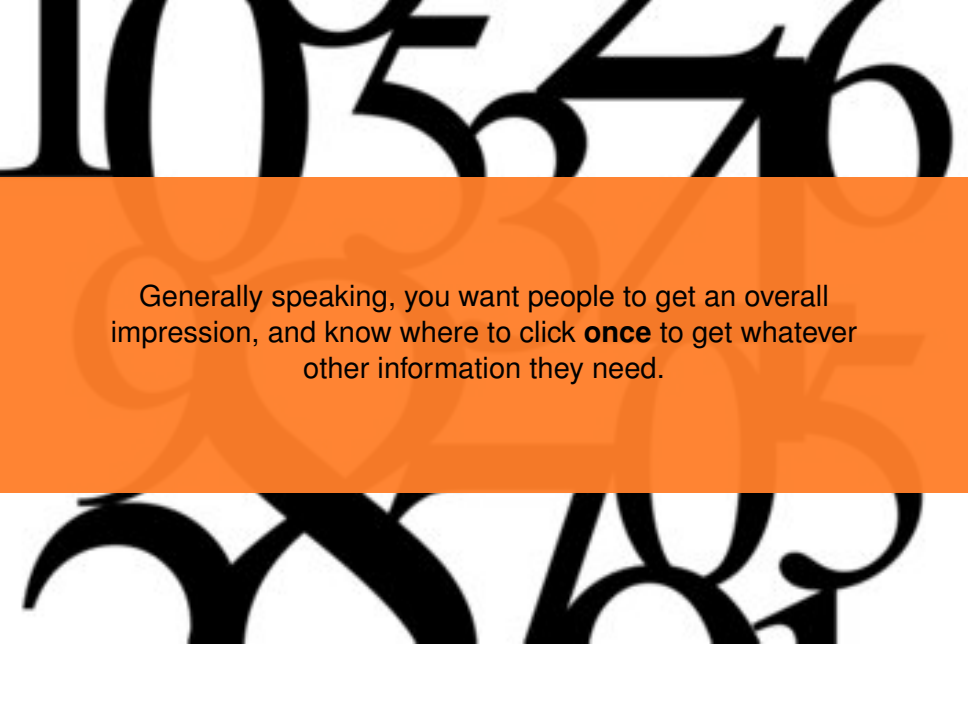
HOW SHOULD YOUR WEBSITE LOOK?



The background features large, stylized black numbers (10, 5, 4, 6, 2, 8, 2) on a white background. A solid orange horizontal band spans the middle of the image, containing the text.

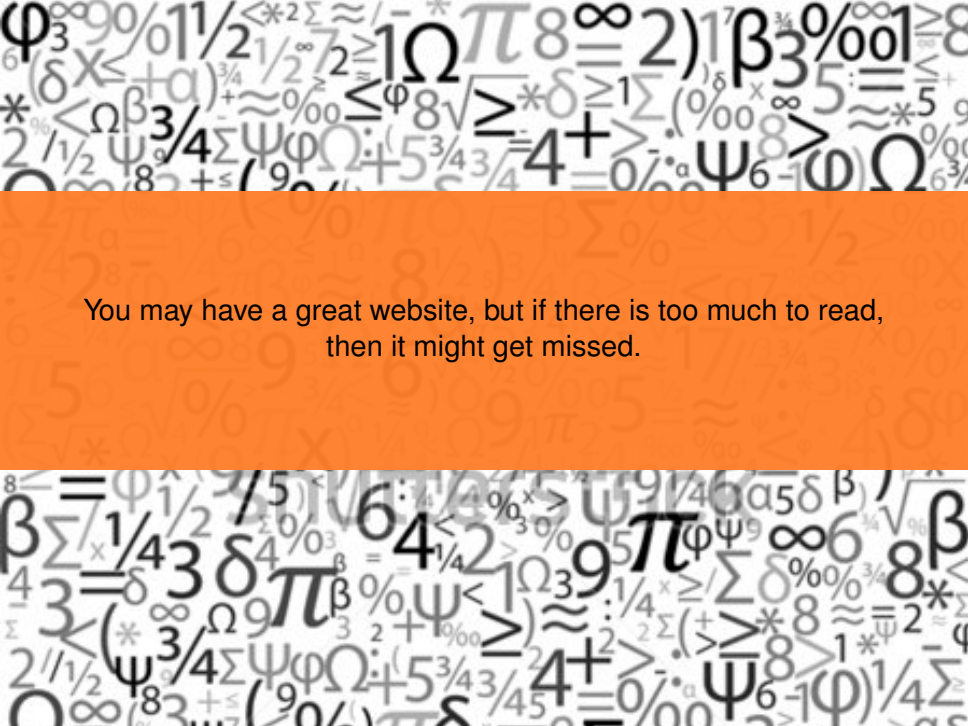
Generally speaking, you want people to get an overall impression, and know where to click once to get whatever other information they need.





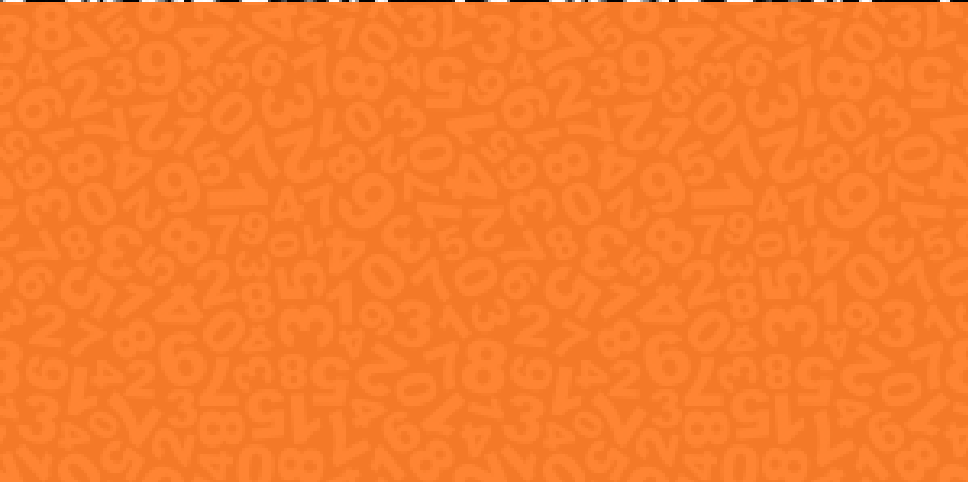
Generally speaking, you want people to get an overall impression, and know where to click **once** to get whatever other information they need.



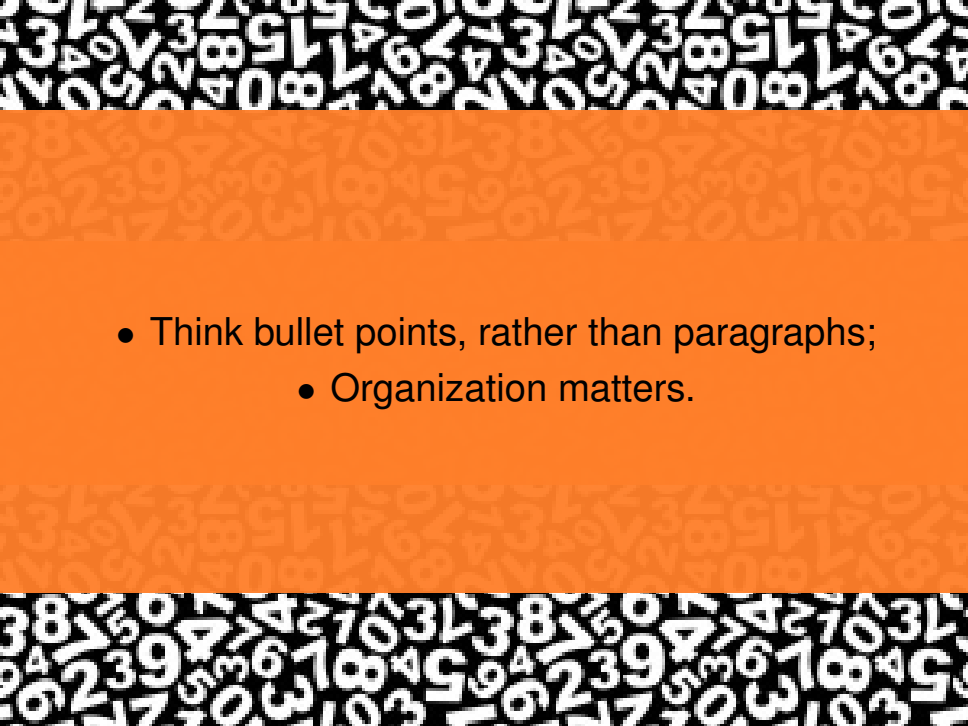


You may have a great website, but if there is too much to read,  
then it might get missed.

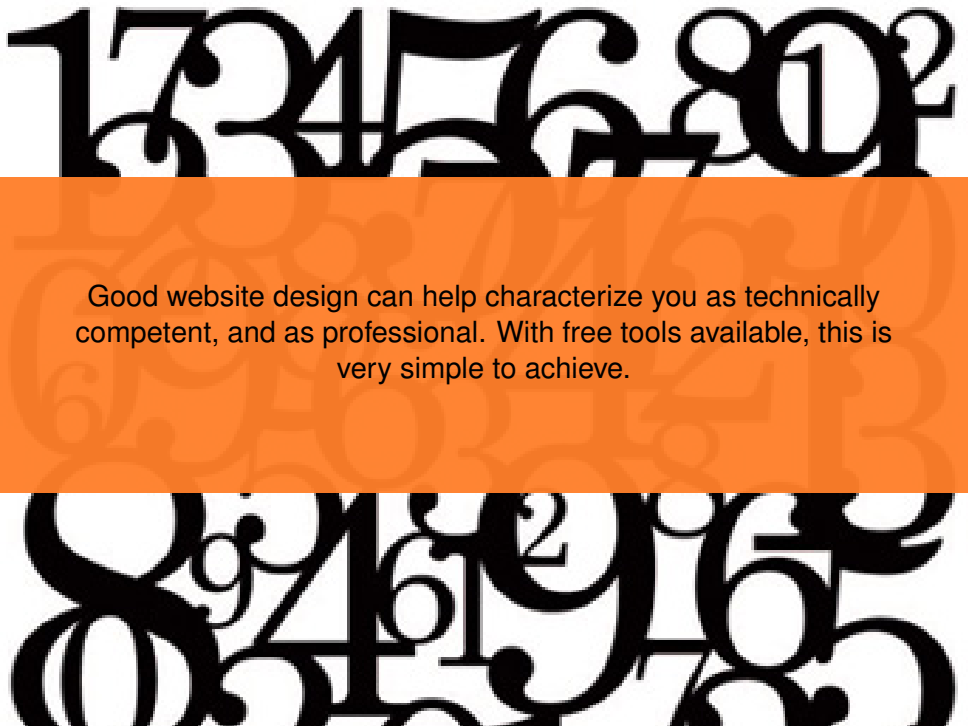






- 
- Think bullet points, rather than paragraphs;
    - Organization matters.





Good website design can help characterize you as technically competent, and as professional. With free tools available, this is very simple to achieve.



The background of the slide features a white surface covered with numerous 3D-rendered numbers in various sizes and orientations. Some numbers are sharp and prominent, while others are faded and out of focus. A solid orange rectangular box is centered horizontally and occupies the middle portion of the slide, containing the main text.

**There are a number of free ways to make a website,  
for example using:**



The background of the slide features a white surface with large, 3D, grey numbers scattered across it. An orange banner is positioned in the center, containing text. The numbers are of various sizes and orientations, creating a sense of depth and randomness.

**There are a number of free ways to make a website,  
for example using:**

Google Sites

WordPress

Squarespace

Weebly



Examples of good websites:  
Using Google Sites



Examples of good websites:

Using Google Sites `https:`

`//sites.google.com/a/g.ucla.edu/ahmorales/home`



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Using WordPress:



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<https://sites.google.com/site/emilyclader/>

Using WordPress: <http://www.garibaldibros.com/>



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Using WordPress: <http://www.garibaldibros.com/>

<https://ilaba.wordpress.com/>



More examples of good websites:



More examples of good websites:

Using Weebly:



More examples of good websites:

Using Weebly: <http://www.marcyrobertson.com/>



More examples of good websites:

Using Weebly: <http://www.marcyrobertson.com/>  
<http://justmarks.weebly.com/research.html>



More examples of good websites:

Using Weebly: <http://www.marcyrobertson.com/>  
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Using Wix:



More examples of good websites:

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<http://justmarks.weebly.com/research.html>

Using Wix: <http://khayutin.wix.com/mathematics>

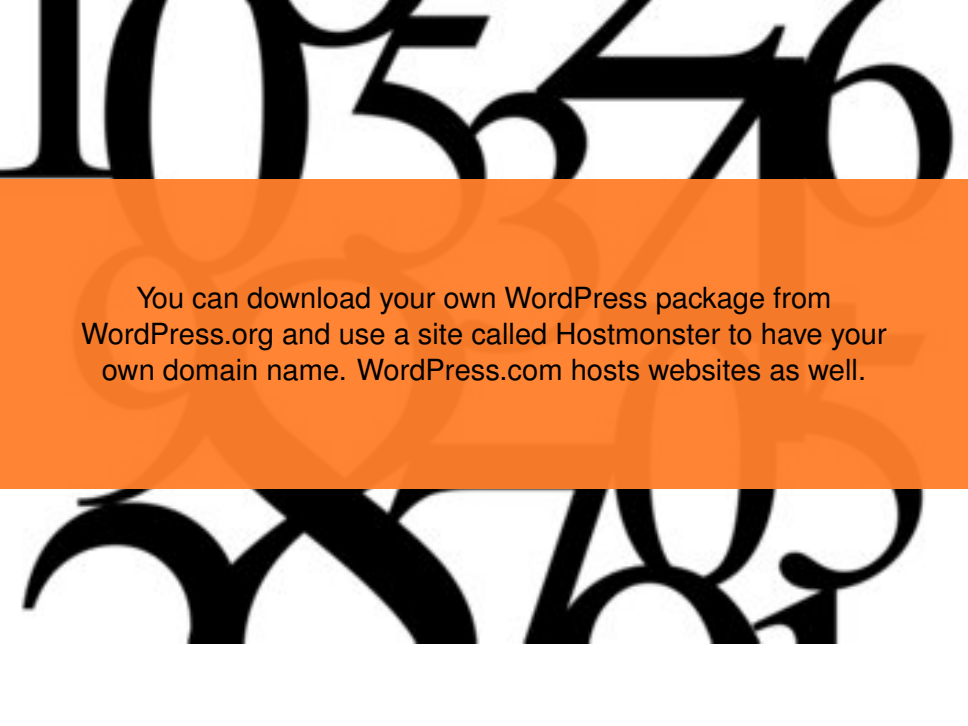


## More examples of good websites:

Using Weebly: <http://www.marcyrobertson.com/>  
<http://justmarks.weebly.com/research.html>

Using Wix: <http://khayutin.wix.com/mathematics>  
<http://ndwilli5.wix.com/nakeyawilliams>



The background features large, stylized black numbers (10, 5, 4, 6, 8, 2) in a decorative font. A solid orange horizontal band is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text.

You can download your own WordPress package from WordPress.org and use a site called Hostmonster to have your own domain name. WordPress.com hosts websites as well.






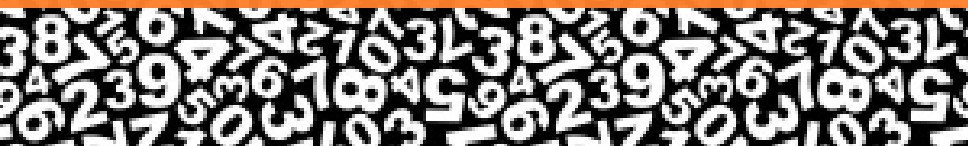
# THE INTERVIEW





EXPECT




- 
- a 1-2 day interview;
  - 30 minute meetings with everyone from undergraduates to deans from early morning until after dinner;
  - to give a one hour talk for non-experts;
    - to be exhausted!
- 





20 QUESTIONS





(1) Describe your research.



## **You will need to prepare:**

- a short answer for non-experts, and people in hallways and on elevators (think “Jaws on paws” (Cujo));
  - a medium description for the general math consumer;
- more detail for the people who have the time.



The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of 3D-rendered numbers (0-9) in a light gray color. The numbers are scattered across the top and bottom sections, creating a textured, mathematical effect. A solid orange horizontal band runs across the middle of the slide, containing the text.

(2) Your basic teaching philosophy is...?

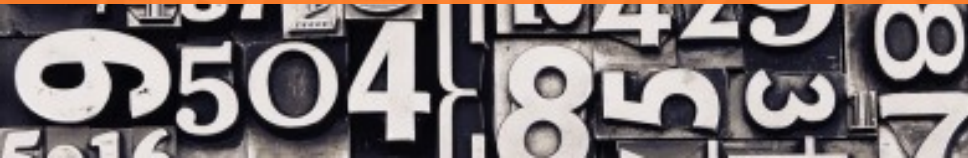


- you should have short, medium, and long answers for this question as well;
  - this may depend on the job (liberal arts college, state school with heavy teaching load, PhD granting institution).





- (3) How has your research influenced your teaching?
- (4) In what ways have you been able to bring the insights of your research to your courses at the undergraduate level?







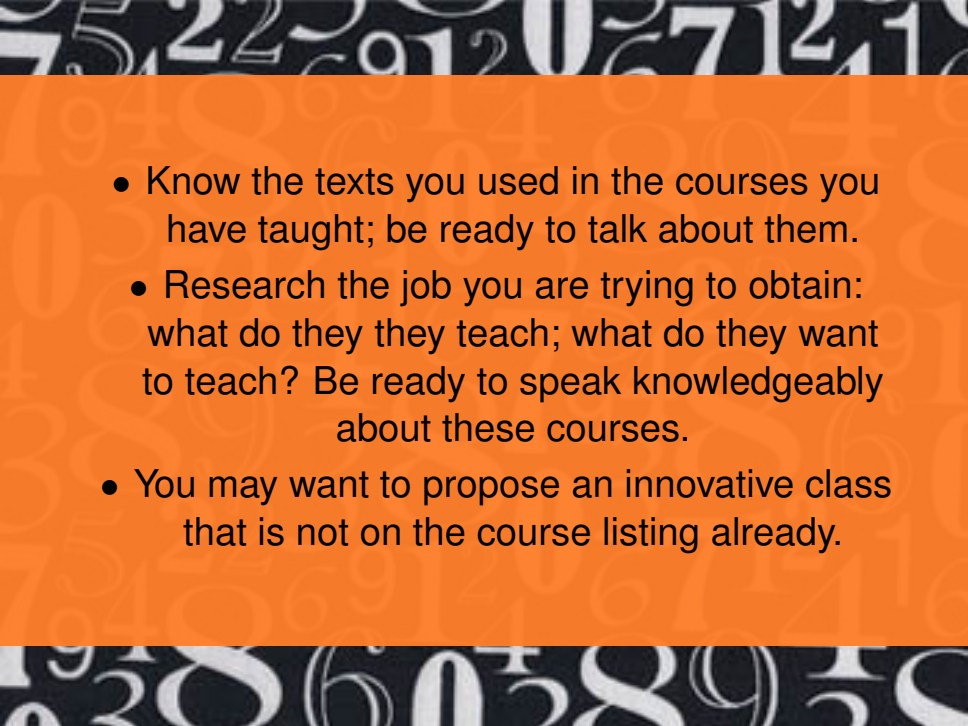
COME PREPARED WITH SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.



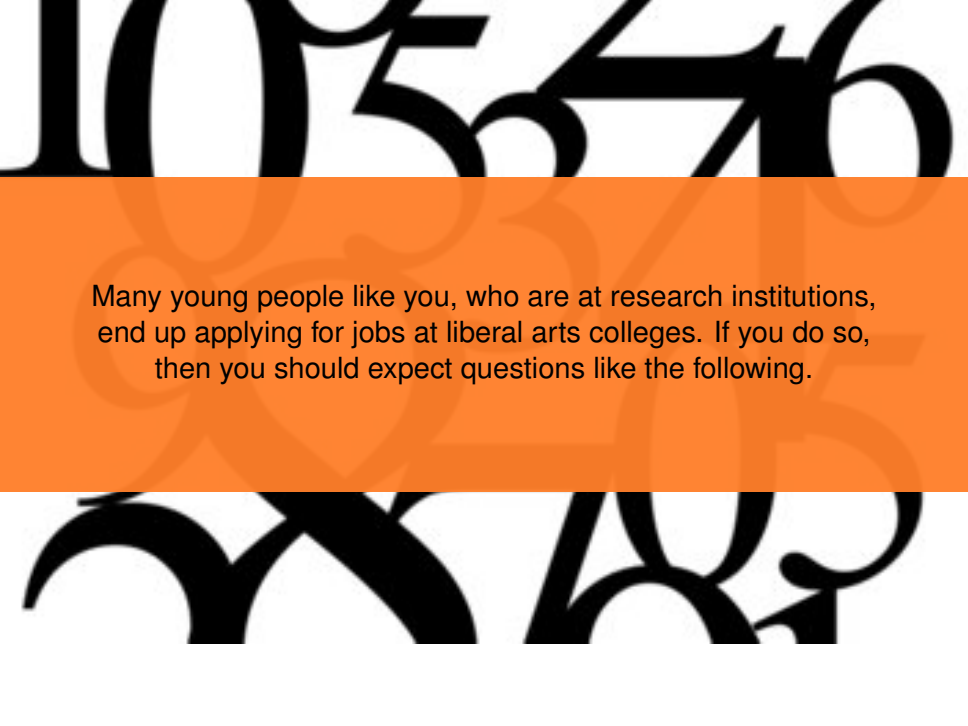
(5) How would you teach:

- Any course listed on your CV?
- Your dream course, if given the opportunity?
- A specific standard course like calculus?



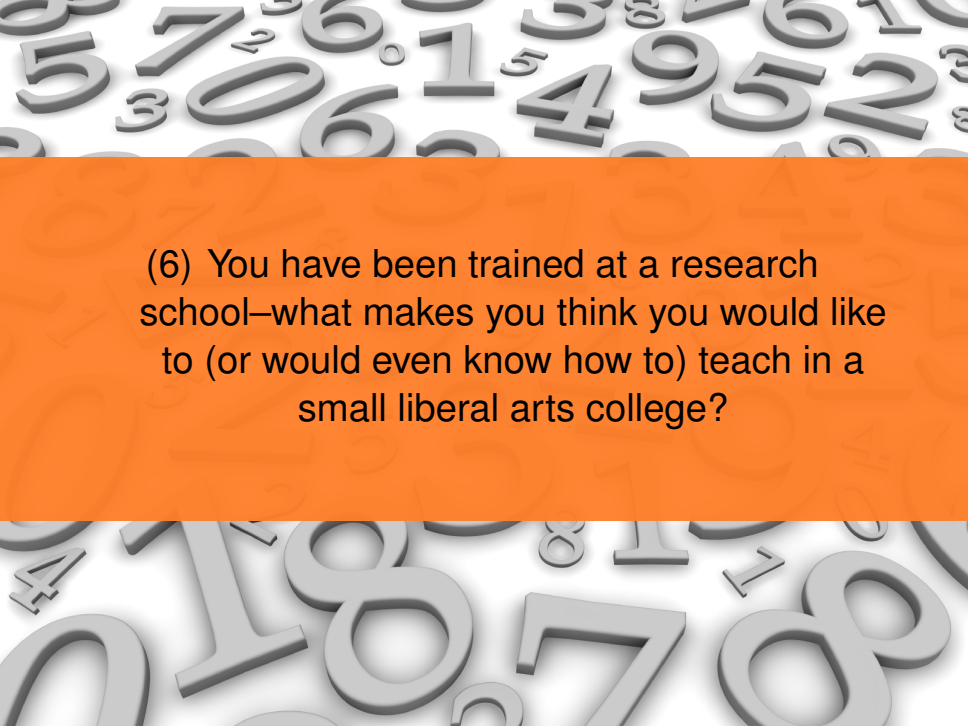
- 
- A decorative border at the top and bottom of the slide features a dark blue background with large, white, stylized numbers and symbols, including 5, 2, 2, 9, 1, 2, 0, 7, 1, 2, 1, 9, 3, 8, 6, 0, 2, 8, 9, 1, 5, and infinity symbols.
- Know the texts you used in the courses you have taught; be ready to talk about them.
  - Research the job you are trying to obtain: what do they they teach; what do they want to teach? Be ready to speak knowledgeably about these courses.
  - You may want to propose an innovative class that is not on the course listing already.



The background features large, stylized black numbers (10, 5, 4, 6, 2, 8, 2) arranged in a way that they appear to be part of a larger, partially visible sequence. A solid orange horizontal band spans the width of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

Many young people like you, who are at research institutions, end up applying for jobs at liberal arts colleges. If you do so, then you should expect questions like the following.



The background of the slide features a dense, overlapping pattern of 3D-rendered numbers in various sizes and orientations, creating a textured, mathematical effect. The numbers are light gray with soft shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating or scattered across the surface.

(6) You have been trained at a research school—what makes you think you would like to (or would even know how to) teach in a small liberal arts college?



(7) Do you understand the liberal arts college mission?


(8) Will you give your students the time and personal attention that we expect?

(9) Do you like teaching?

(10) Would you thrive in this environment?

(11) What experience do you have?



A decorative header at the top of the slide featuring a row of various numbers and symbols, including 1, 8, 2, 1, 5, 2, a dollar sign, 4, and a percent sign, set against a dark background.

You may have to fight against stereotypes people have about what it is like to be trained at a research school. Inform them about *your* personal experience. Tell them about:

- the small classes you may have taught;
- the teacher training you may have had (which you should look for);
- all the activities that your department does for undergraduate students.





(12) What are some ideas you have for research projects with undergraduates?







Come prepared for this one!





The background of the slide is a dark grey or black color, covered with a dense, overlapping pattern of white numbers. The numbers are in various fonts, sizes, and orientations, creating a complex, abstract texture. Some numbers are large and bold, while others are small and thin. The numbers include digits from 0 to 9, as well as some special characters like the infinity symbol ( $\infty$ ) and the percent sign (%).

(13) What is your favorite theorem?



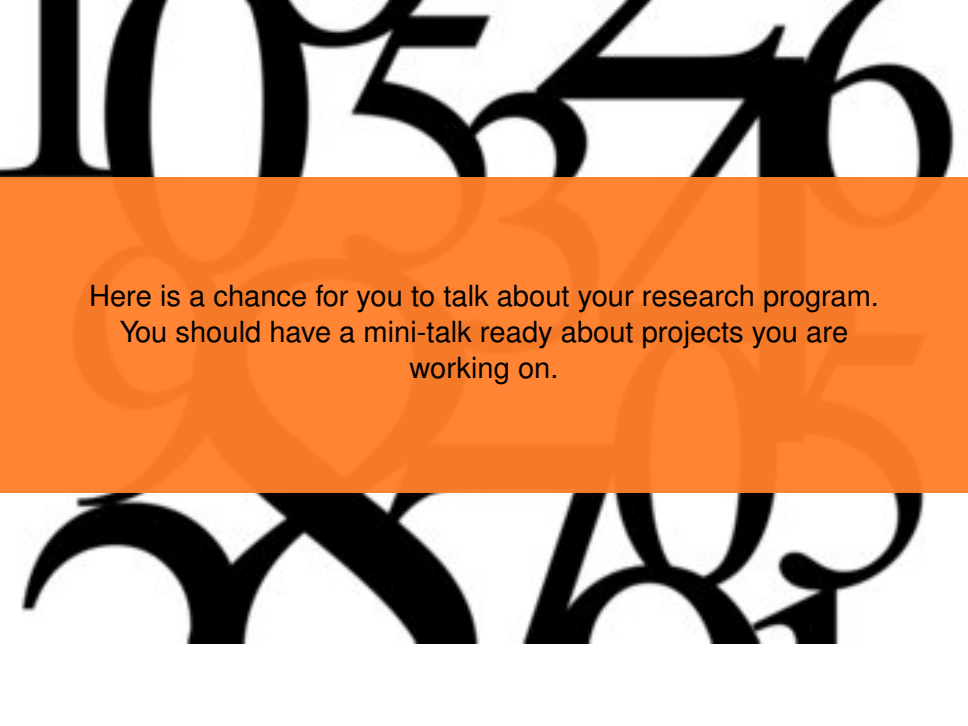
The background of the slide features a dense, overlapping pattern of 3D-rendered numbers in various sizes and orientations. The numbers are light gray with soft shadows, giving them a tactile, three-dimensional appearance. They are scattered across the entire frame, with some numbers appearing more prominent than others. The overall effect is a textured, data-driven aesthetic.

(14) Tell us about your research program.

(15) What are you working on currently?

(16) What do you plan to look at next?





Here is a chance for you to talk about your research program.  
You should have a mini-talk ready about projects you are  
working on.





(17) Who on the faculty, or at nearby schools, will you talk math with?



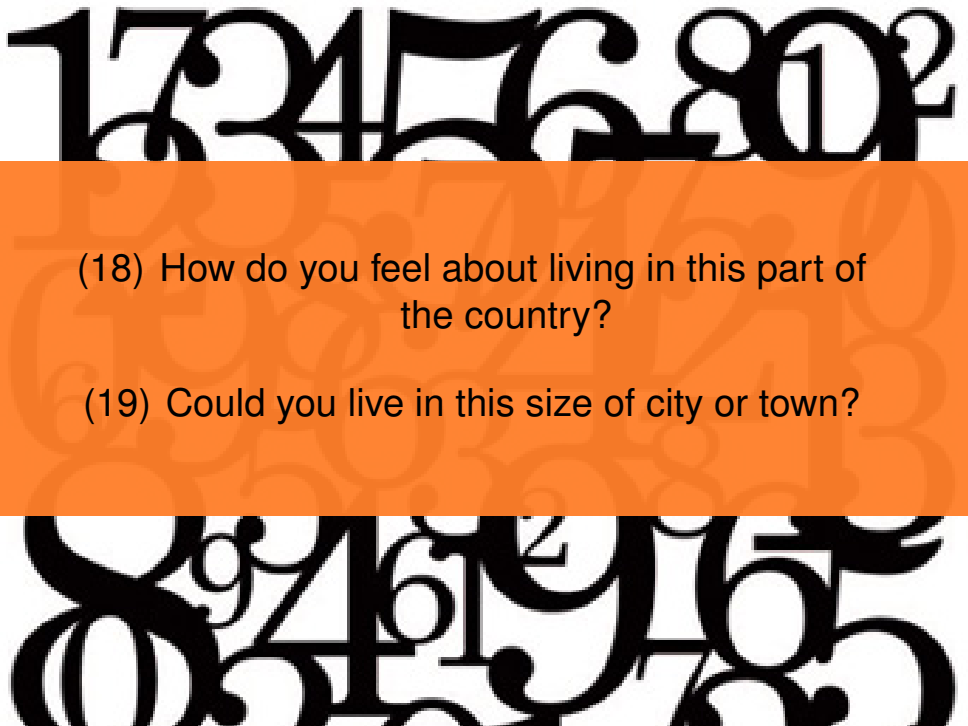




Make sure you do your research and know who is on the faculty  
and who is nearby.







(18) How do you feel about living in this part of the country?

(19) Could you live in this size of city or town?



Be informed! Show off your interest! Give details about what attracts you, why it would be a good fit, what appeals to you. Show them you know about their part of the country and their city or town. *Your answer to this question could be a deal breaker for many people on the faculty.*



The background of the slide is a light gray surface covered with numerous 3D-rendered numbers (0-9) in various sizes and orientations, creating a textured, mathematical effect. A solid orange horizontal band is positioned in the center of the slide, containing the text.

(20) Do you have any questions?



The background of the slide features large, bold, black numbers (1, 0, 5, 4, 6) in a serif font, partially obscured by a solid orange horizontal band. The text "THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!" is centered within this band in a black, italicized, sans-serif font.

*THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!*





**20 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK:**



A decorative header at the top of the slide featuring a row of various numbers (1, 8, 2, 1, 5, 2, 4, 1, 0) and symbols (percent, dollar, hash, at, asterisk, hash, at, percent) in a bold, sans-serif font. The background of the slide is a solid orange color.

**To the search committee chair, or to your advocate, or  
your handler that day:**

- Tell me about the agenda today;
- What is the department looking for?
- Are there any surprises or issues I should be aware of or on the lookout for? (this is a big one and you could ask this of your advocate before you arrive)



**To the dean:**

- What do you think about the department's trajectory?
- Are there plans for hiring in the math department in the near future?
- What are tenure and promotion expectations and procedures like?



**To the department chair or senior faculty:**

- What is the department looking for?
- What are tenure and promotion expectations and procedures like?
- Are there plans for hiring in the math department in the near future?
  - If they are research active (check their webpage, the arxiv, mathscinet), ask them about their work.



**To junior faculty: ask the same questions as to the senior faculty *and*:**

- How much choice do you have when it comes to: what you teach, how many preps, what days of the week you teach?
- What research support do you receive?
  - What bugs you most about your job?
    - What do you love about it?



The background of the slide features a solid orange horizontal band across the middle. Above and below this band, there are 3D-rendered numbers in a light gray color, scattered across the white background. The numbers include 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, some appearing multiple times and in various orientations.

## **To graduate students:**

- What are you working on?
- What made you choose this department?
  - What research support do you receive?



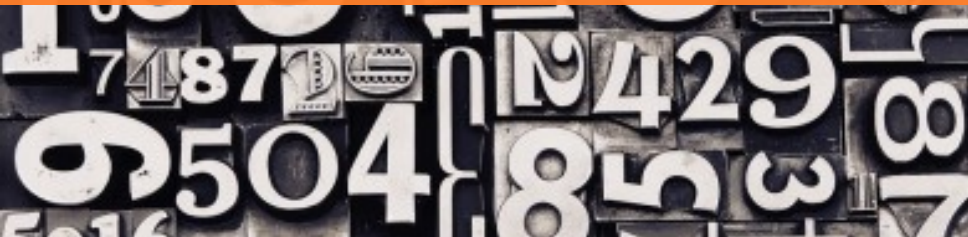
**To undergraduate students (if an undergraduate is interviewing you, then this is important):**

- What made you choose this school?
  - What makes this school different?
- How were you chosen to be an interviewer?
- What are you looking for in a new professor?






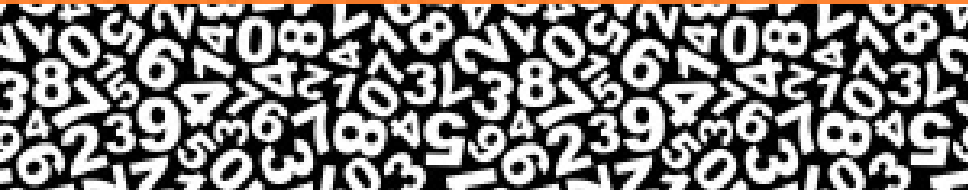
**Dealing with “illegal” or uncomfortable questions;  
options and strategies:**



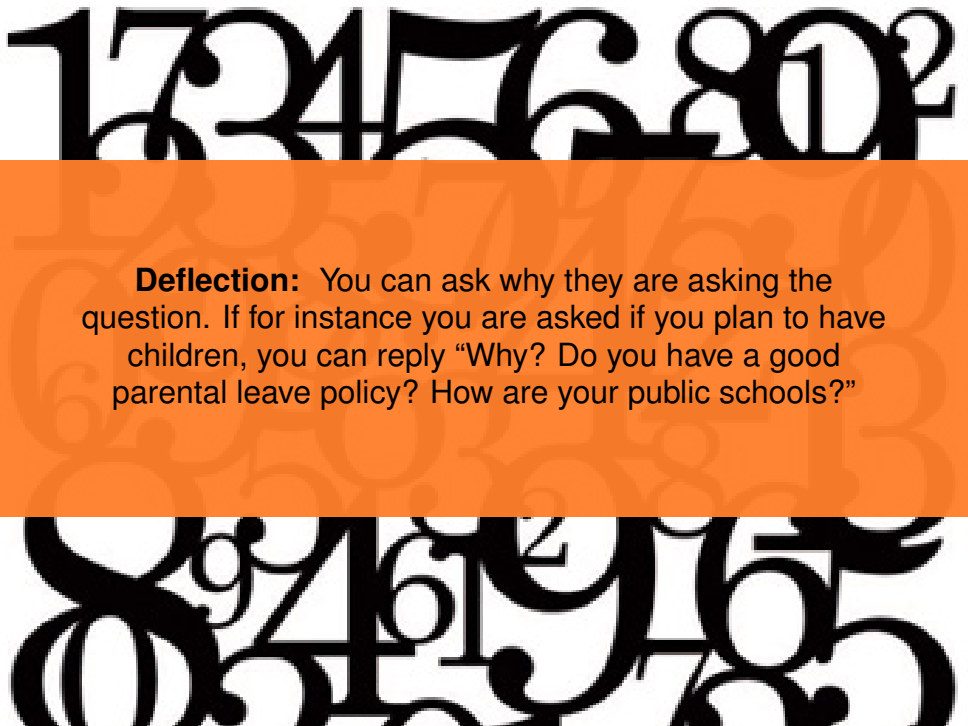


A decorative border at the top of the slide consisting of a dense, overlapping pattern of black and white numbers (0-9) of various sizes and orientations.

**Consider answering anyway.** For example, if you're asked by your advocate if you have a two-body problem and accepting a position is contingent on two offers, you may decide to give them the information they need to get another offer in place.

A decorative border at the bottom of the slide, identical to the one at the top, consisting of a dense, overlapping pattern of black and white numbers (0-9) of various sizes and orientations.





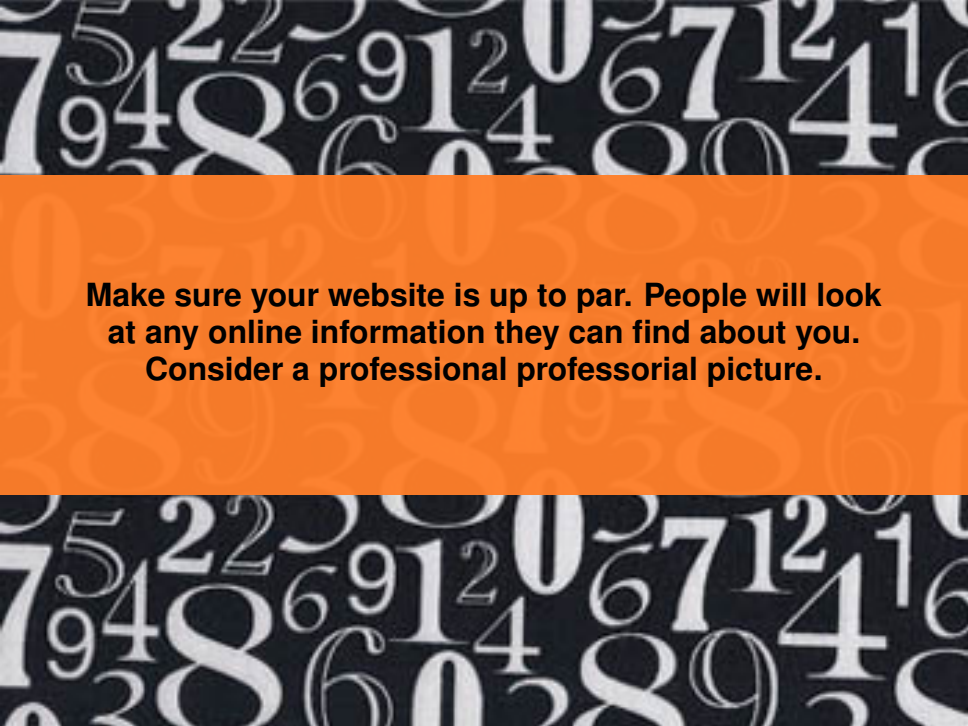
**Deflection:** You can ask why they are asking the question. If for instance you are asked if you plan to have children, you can reply “Why? Do you have a good parental leave policy? How are your public schools?”






HOW TO PREPARE



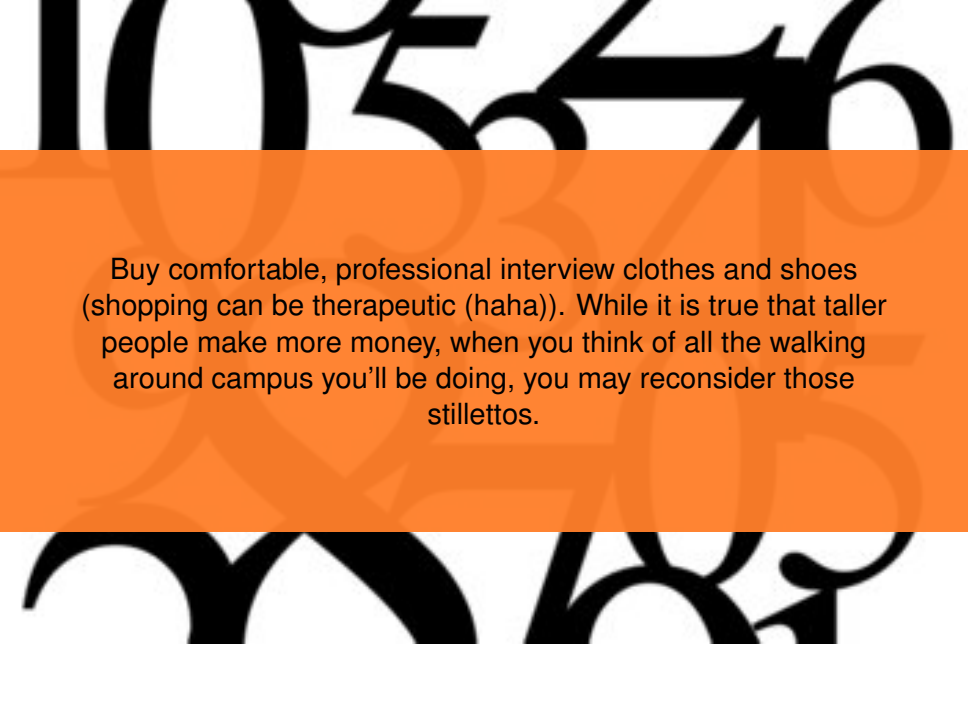
The background of the slide is a dark grey or black color, featuring a dense, overlapping pattern of white numbers in various fonts and sizes. The numbers include 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, some appearing as single digits and others as parts of larger numbers or fractions. The central text is white and is set against a solid orange rectangular background that spans the width of the slide.

**Make sure your website is up to par. People will look  
at any online information they can find about you.  
Consider a professional professorial picture.**



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- A decorative header at the top of the slide features a row of 3D-style numbers (0-9) in white and grey, set against a background of faint, larger, semi-transparent numbers in a light orange color.
- Research the school, the department, the faculty, the town, the region of the country.
  - Answer these questions long before you get to the interview (some you can work on before you get any interviews).
    - Prepare and practice your job talk.





Buy comfortable, professional interview clothes and shoes (shopping can be therapeutic (haha)). While it is true that taller people make more money, when you think of all the walking around campus you'll be doing, you may reconsider those stilettos.



A decorative border at the top and bottom of the slide features a collage of various numbers, symbols, and characters in different fonts and sizes, including 'N', '8', '15', 'Z', '4', and '9'.

## **At the interview:**

- Be alert, look people in the eye, answer questions directly, and with interest.
- Show good manners and collegiality.





**Try to have a good time and enjoy yourself if you can.**







GOOD LUCK!