



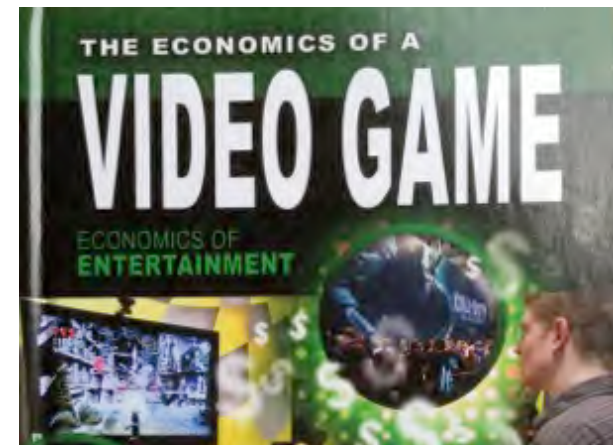
# HOW TO TALK TO A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST

---

The Secrets of a Successful Interview

Kathryn Hulick  
[kathrynhulick.com](http://kathrynhulick.com)

# Wait, I'm a journalist?

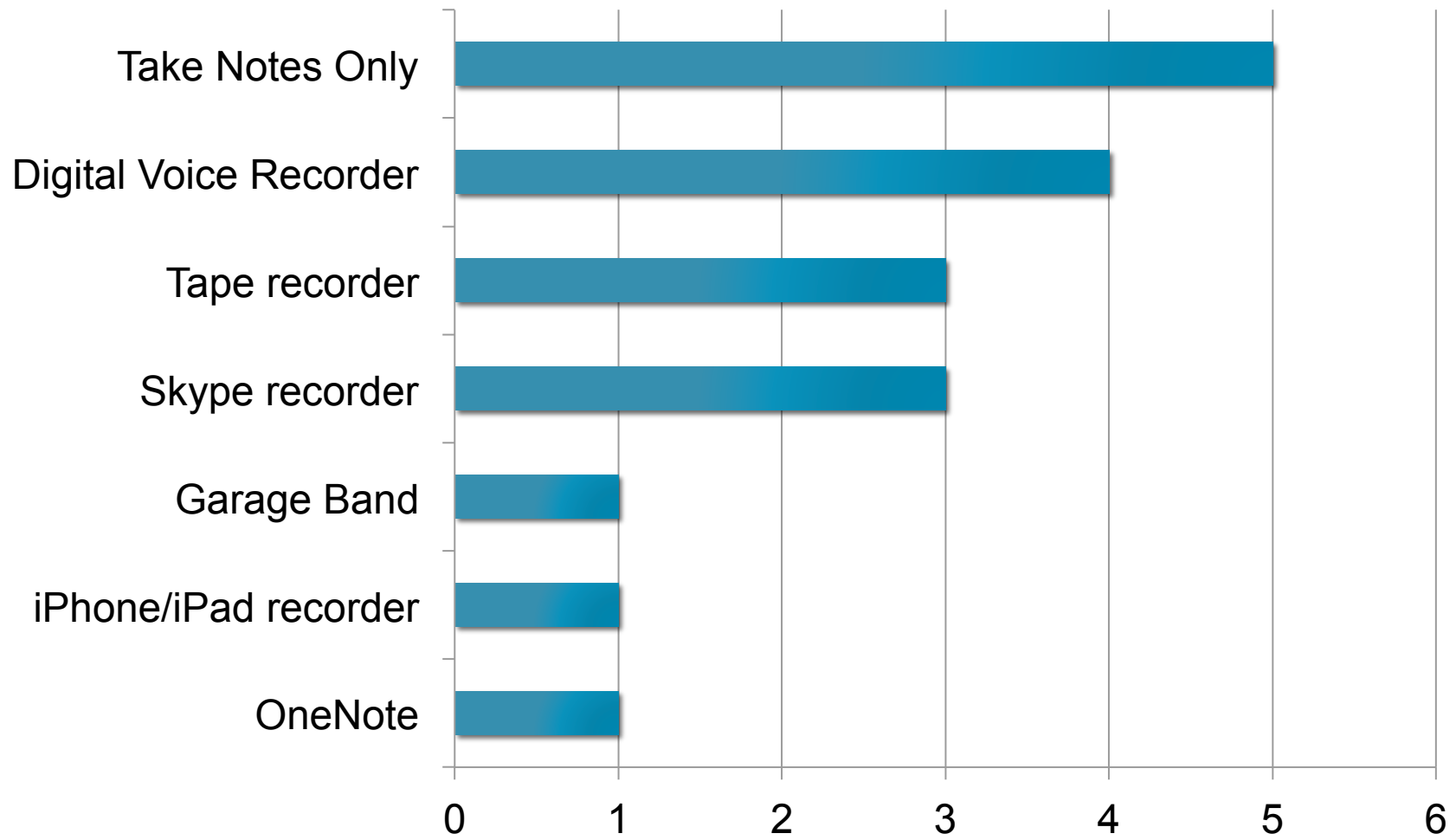


# Experts are everywhere

The Google logo, featuring the word "Google" in its characteristic multi-colored font (blue, red, yellow, blue, green, red).

Networking!

# How to record an interview?



unprepared

rushing

awkward

noise

shy

careful

taciturn

impatient

not-forthcoming

hard-to-understand

babble

dead-batteries

out-of-control

difficult

crowded

defensive

distracted

negative

hair-raising

attorneys

uh-huh

religion

tough

fall-apart

condescending

long

recited

denied

private

tension

waste-time

bad-sound

quality

cut-off

guarded

trickle

complicated

dishonest

exasperated

bulldozed



listen

share learn  
engaged  
encouraging  
not-interviewed-before  
loves-to-tell-stories  
comfortable  
confident  
vivid  
supportive

quotes  
present-tense  
kid-friendly  
wait  
details  
fascinated  
natural  
cooperative  
precise  
insights  
gracious  
empathy

passionate

trust excited relaxed  
interested

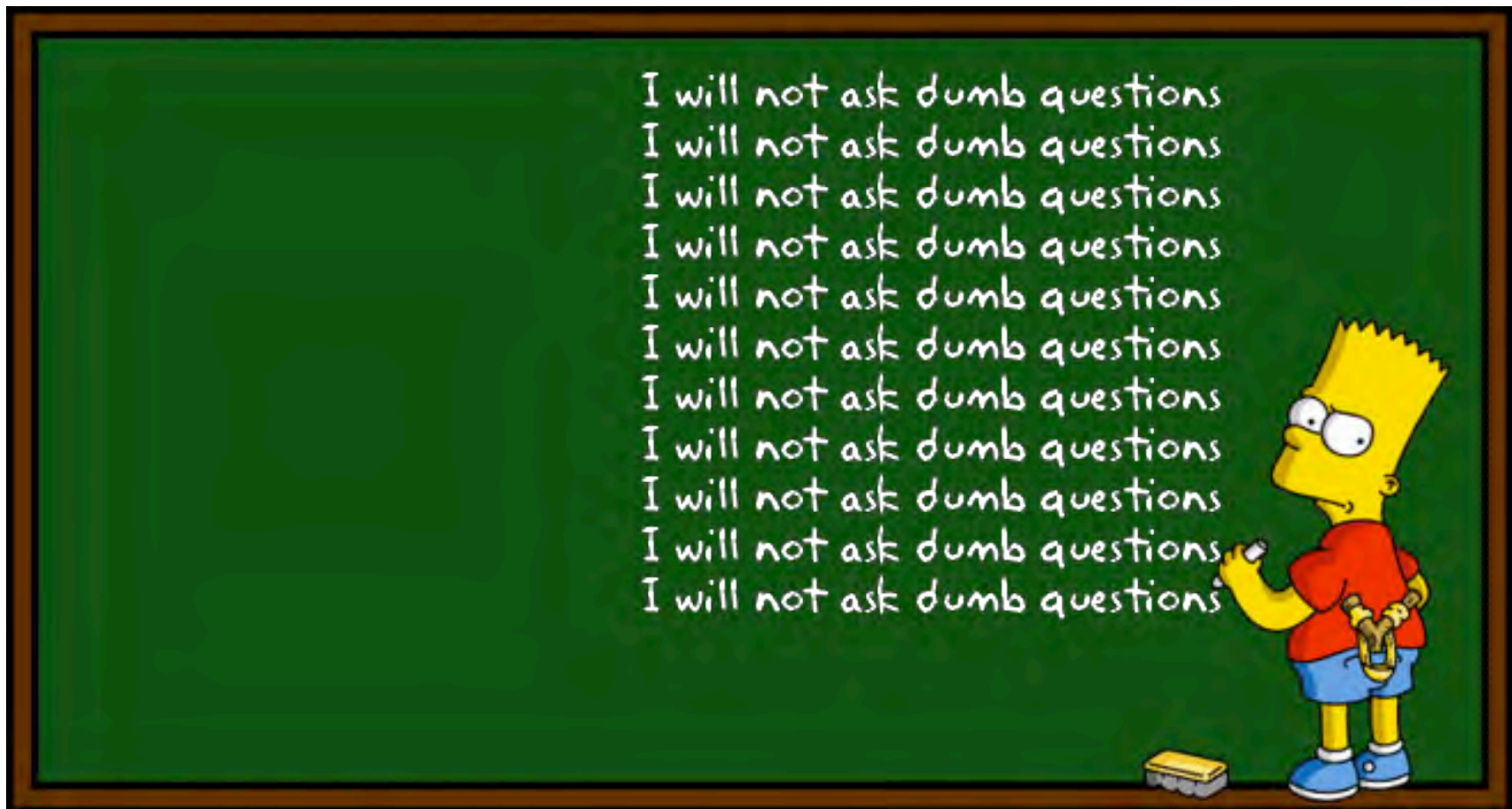
understands-audience  
surprises  
relax

enthusiastic

thrilled  
candid  
expertise  
friendly  
experienced  
winging-it  
organized  
focused

open-ended  
prepared  
open  
time-conscious  
courteous

# Tips for a successful interview



Source: Bart Simpson chalkboard generator [http://www.addletters.com/bart-simpson-generator.htm#.U17nsuZdV\\_Q](http://www.addletters.com/bart-simpson-generator.htm#.U17nsuZdV_Q)

# 1. Ask open-ended questions.



Hulick/Gargolinski family



## 2. Ask short questions.



By Raven Underwood (Flickr) [CC-BY-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

### 3. Don't make statements.



By Martin SoulStealer from London, England (Picnic Punk IV) [CC-BY-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons



## 4. Build on the subject's answers.



By Alan Chia (Lego Color Bricks) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

## 5. Avoid loaded words.



By Superbenjamin (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons



## 6. Relax and listen!



By User:SanderlinMills1 (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

# Fix these questions!

- You must be disappointed by the lack of attention to your research.
- Do you spend a lot of time searching for new exoplanets?
- Why did you get involved in a devious scheme to overthrow the government?
- How do you feel about climate change? Because I read that you're predicting environmental collapse.
- What methods do you use to monitor the rhino population and do you also monitor any other populations?

# Interviewing tips

1. Ask open-ended questions.
2. Ask short questions.
3. Don't make statements.
4. Build on the subject's answers.
5. Avoid loaded words.
6. Relax and listen!

*Adapted from tips from Investigative journalist and interview coach John Sawatsky*  
<http://ajrarchive.org/article.asp?id=676>

# Happy Star Wars Day!



Special thanks to:  
Kerri Logan Hollihan  
Annette Pimentel  
Kirsten Larson  
Chris Eboch  
Wendie Old  
Caroline Hatton  
L.E. Carmichael  
Cynthia Levinson  
Heather L. Montgomery  
Carla Killough McClafferty  
Andy Boyles  
Michele Corriel