

Job Shadow

The person I interviewed was Clara Flores. Clara is the owner of the salon and a hair stylist. She runs her business five days out of the week while also being a beautician the clients that come in. Before going into the building I was feeling a bit nervous. That's because I was afraid of talking to someone I didn't really know, plus having to ask the questions after would make my stomach turn. Im shy that's why, I try not to let it get to me but sometimes I just couldn't handle it. Once I walked in, I couldn't help but smile the whole time. The smell hit my face as soon as I took that first step. Who knew the smell of shampoo, conditioner, nail chemicals and hairspray all at once smelled so alluring. When I walked in Clara was working with a client. I shook her hand and introduced myself. I couldn't wait to see all she does in a whole day. Clara and I would talk while she was working with her client. She told me all about what cosmetology school showed her what it didn't show her and how she runs her salon.

The whole time I was job shadowing Clara I was not sitting; I was standing! I knew that as a hair and makeup stylist you had to be standing, but I never really had an actual thought of what it felt like until that day. Thankfully I had worn flats to this job shadow. Since you are supposed to be dressed professionally, I thought you had to wear heels to match the outfit, right? Instead I decided to wear my flats. ONE OF THE BEST CHOICES I HAVE MADE. Half way into my interview my feet were already aching, I didn't want to know how the other girls felt! As a cosmetologist you are on your feet all day.

Something Clara and every one of the employees talked to me about was cliental. "Clientele" are the people you work on, which are called your clients. They all told me their stories of when they first began working at a salon. Clara says that at the very beginning, you don't have many clients; you can go weeks with having just a couple because you are new of course. They all explained how they were at a breaking point to where they wanted to go to school for a different career because cosmetology wasn't enough, but they held on and had patience and eventually everything came through. I can only imagine how stressful that can get because you don't only have bills, you have to pay the owner of the salon or business you are working at depending on what kind of agreement you have made. They explained to me you can pay them by a commission of percentage of what you make a month sometimes a week or by every haircut/pedicure. Another is by paying rent of your station in the salon or business, which is what Clara does. It all depends on how the owner of the business chooses to work with things.

One big thing most cosmetologists have trouble with is starting conversations with their clients. I polish nails and also do they hair for fun on friends of mine, so it's not

hard to have conversations with them at all. If I were to do it on a stranger I would be in a way scared and nervous. Clara gave me a few examples to talk about with clients like weather, where they were from, and how they heard of me. She also told me about the “huge no’s” which is the things you shouldn’t talk about with clients. One thing you shouldn’t talk about is religion. There are very religious people or some that may not even believe in anything, but if you have a different religion than your client and your client happens to be prideful with their religion, than you might just lose a client!! The second subject you shouldn’t talk about with clients is politics. The reason for this is because again, some people are very prideful in what they believe. If it was time to vote for a new president, your client was all for Obama and you wanted to vote for Romney, someone wouldn’t be coming back to you if they found out. Another thing is because they might feel insulted or hurt.

Based on my job shadow experience. This job shadow has taught me that cosmetology isn’t just fun, it’s a job like any other, instead of impressing your boss you need to impress your clients, make them feel satisfied and beautiful, or handsome. You have to work hard at what you do, the better you get the more money you will receive from clients.