ASK ELLEN – Are these necessary: ‘thank you’s after an interview, a Linkedin page?

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Q: Do I really have to send ‘thank you’s after interview, and have a Linkedin page?

A: The short answer to both of these is "yes".

Regarding ‘thank you’s after an interview, this is common courtesy and also shows the interviewer(s) that you understand what is expected of you. It makes a good impression and can be an opportunity as well, to restate that you have a strong interest and feel that you are a good match for the hard- and soft-skill requirements of the job. If there was a concern the interviewer(s) had during the interview that you want to address, or something additional you want them to know that you forgot to say, you can include those too (be brief, though).

Remember to send a separate ‘thank you’ to each person who interviewed you, and don't send the same message to each person. Double-check, online or with the hiring manager, to ensure that you have the spelling of the names and the titles correct. If you know a decision is going to be made soon, e-mail is better than snail mail, and if it is handwritten, make sure it is legible.

Regarding a Linkedin page, employers who are considering hiring you will check out your online presence, and if there is no LI page they may wonder why. Plus it is free, easy to create, flexible, and a great way to present what you've done and can do. You can connect or re-connect with others for mutual benefit, and you can even highlight current projects. By joining groups and participating in their discussions you can connect with still others and build your professional reputation, and it can also be helpful when doing research prior to applying or interviewing for a job.

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Thank you and good luck!

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