

Overcoming Job-Hunting Impostor's Syndrome

Flower Exercise Follow-Up

Objectives

- Identify your top 3 priorities in your first dev job.
- Identify areas where you might place barriers on yourself in terms of the job search.
- Devise an action plan to overcome those barriers.
- Create a job search support group within your cohort -- *you are each other's best support system and allies in this search.*

Portfolio Deliverables

- 1 paragraph describing your top 3 priorities in your first dev job and why
- 1-2 paragraphs describing your perceived barriers and the action steps you will take to overcome them

Debriefing the Flower Exercise

- What are you looking for in your first dev job?
- Top 3 Priorities: think about specifics and why

Debriefing the Flower Exercise

- Pair Up:
 - Do you know exactly what your partner wants looking for?
 - Why are these things important to the other person? What in their past experience led to this conclusion?

(Perceived) Barriers in our Job Search

- We can sometimes talk ourselves out of opportunities because we don't think we deserve them, and we create our own barriers to success
- Examples:
 - I talk myself out of applying to certain jobs because I don't meet enough of the listed qualifications.
 - I don't feel comfortable networking; it feels forced, and I don't want to do something that doesn't feel genuine, so I stay home from meet-ups.
 - Interviews make me really nervous, so I end up performing badly. It's hard for me to code/communicate on the spot.
- What are some barriers you might carry with you?

Taking Action

- Turn these barriers into something *actionable*
- Fear-Planning: What's the worst that could happen based on these fears? What will you do?
- Action Steps:
 - What steps can you take to stop these things from happening?
 - How can we talk ourselves back into the job search?
 - What do you know that's true about you? (Facts, Feedback)
How do you know it? (Evidence -- point to the flower!)

Creating a Job Search Support System

- You are each other's best resources in the job search.
- What does it mean to support each other in the job search? What can this look like?
 - Communication: separate channel with regular stand-ups and retros; look at #1511-job-hunt and #1603-job-hunt
 - Code review: submit PRs and review each other's code to help polish each other's projects
 - Pass along job leads
 - Go through technical interview prep questions with each other
- What should your cohort's job search support look like?

Takeaways & Questions

- What can you take away from this session?
- What concerns do you still have?