



Career Services Assignment: Building your Narrative

Intro:

For this assignment you'll be articulating your personal narrative or "story". It's a common misconception among boot camp students that since most of them didn't work in tech prior to attending the boot camp, their personal histories are irrelevant in the post-boot camp job search. Nothing could be further than the truth. Not only will your story create inroads into the industry, but prospective employers want to know who you are, and how your story pertains to their company or product.

This assignment will walk you through a series of steps, the results of which will be your elevator pitch, or your response to the interview question, "Tell me about yourself." We encourage you to spend some time with the below questions, and to dig deep when formulating your responses. Believe it or not 2/3 of your interview experience are behavioral/situational based questions. This exercise is key to successfully preparing for this part of the interview process. The more completely you're able to connect the dots and articulate your story, the better off you'll be in the job search. This assignment will take approximately one 1.5 hours.

Instructions:

1. Add your name to the title of the doc
2. Complete each of the steps below
3. *Once you've completed the assignment, share it with your **CSM and make a 1:1 appointment* (email addresses and calendar links below). *Please note that it's critical that you complete the assignment and submit it prior to your 1:1. If you haven't put the appropriate time and energy into the assignment, your CSM will ask you to reschedule your meeting.*

**If you are confused about who your CSM is please let us know: csm@codingdojo.com*

FULL TIME CSMS:

DUY LYFORD: Onsite Full Time (“ONSITE”) -*San Jose, Boise, Burbank, Bellevue, Tulsa , Veterans*

- dlyford@codingdojo.com / calendly.com/duylyford
- Please note, “Onsite” refers to students who are virtual but assigned to one of these locations. If you are in these locations but chose “Online Full Time” as your program your CSM is “Online Full time”

BRIAN SANCHEZ: Online (Full-Time)

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TILDA GROSS: Online (Full-time)

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ENRIQUE ARVAYO: Online (Full-time), Veterans

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DONALD WOODARD: Onsite-*Chicago*, *Online Part-time Accelerated*, *Amazon Career Choice*

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- Please note, “Onsite” refers to students who are virtual but assigned to Chicago. If you are in Chicago but chose “Online Full Time” as your program your CSM is “Online Full time”

PART TIME CSMS:

DONALD WOODARD: Onsite-*Chicago*, *Online Part-time Accelerated*, *Amazon Career Choice*

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JOSEPH YEA: Datascience

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Assignment:

Step 1/4 - Values Assessment

Your values drive your decisions and personal and professional pursuits. Until you've situated them in the context of your values, it's often difficult to find the connections or "throughlines" between your past professional, educational, and personal pursuits and your new career.

Take this [values assessment](#) and list the results below

Your four final values:

1. Personal Growth and Learning
2. Rewarding and Supportive Relationships
3. Enjoyment of the activity itself
4. Wealth, Material Well-Being

Step 2/4 - Personality Assessment

While you may or may not subscribe to the accuracy of the Myers Briggs personality assessment, it is a useful tool in helping you identify strengths that pertain directly to your personal narrative.

Take this [Myers Briggs test](#), and then head to this site to read about your personality type: [check out this personality resource](#).

Please share your personality type results below:

1. **MY MBTI PERSONALITY TYPE** (example: INTJ, Architect): ISTP-A, Virtuoso _____
2. **(Optional) MY HIGH 5 - TOP 5 STRENGTHS FINDER:** [HIGH 5 TEST](#)

Pick out three or four of the strengths AND weaknesses that resonate with you and list them below. If you need more ideas for strengths/weaknesses to share please check out these [67 Competencies](#) to choose from.

1. Empathizer
 2. Thinker
 3. Self-Believer
 4. Analyst
-
1. [WEAKNESS 1]
 2. [WEAKNESS 2]
 3. [WEAKNESS 3]
 4. [WEAKNESS 4]

Step 3/4 - Type out responses to the following questions:

Why did you decide to attend a coding boot camp? How does this decision reflect your values and strengths?

I do not like where I am at now with my career, a career I rushed into because I was not motivated enough to challenge myself. Ever since I was introduced to coding I fell in love with it, because it challenges me and gives me a sense of satisfaction when what I am trying to build and accomplish actually works.

Briefly describe your past professional pursuits, educational history and personal passions and interests. How do your professional pursuits, education, interests and passions reflect your values and strengths?

I went to college and graduated with a degree in psychology, and during my time in college I was employed at both a rehabilitation center and a group home for people with mental disabilities. I had to push myself to graduate because I did not take my education seriously and was in danger of failing out each year. I wish I had pushed myself all those years ago so I could have been living the life I wanted to live by now.

Given your two above responses, what are the connections between your past professional pursuits, education, interests and passions, and your new career as a software engineer (or the associated career path of your choice)?

I am pursuing a career in web development because I now have goals that I have set for myself, something I did not have many years ago. I feel I have really progressed as a person during the time I graduated college and now.

What was the first moment you considered software engineering (or the career track of your choice)? What obstacles did you overcome to pursue this career?

I first considered this career path when I was having a conversation with a friend of mine who was already employed in the field. The way he talked about his career and his life made me want that for myself as well. I gave coding to see if it was something I could enjoy doing, and have loved it ever since. I am currently working full time in the military and do not have the time I would like to have to progress my coding skills, but that has not stopped me from learning everything I need to know and practicing my coding anytime I get a chance.

What do you love about the actual work of coding? How does this reflect your values and strengths?

I love how it challenges you to find a solution, and the satisfaction that you feel once you have completed a problem. The old me would have just quit when things got too challenging, but I am glad I am past that now.

Given your values, strengths, and personal and professional history, what kind of work do you want to do upon completing the program? What sort of impact do you want to have?

I wish to pursue a career in Front End Development upon the completion of the program.

Step 4/4 - Crafting Your Elevator Pitch

Now that you've reflected on your story, and how your values and strengths create throughlines that link your past to present, it's time to craft your elevator pitch. This is just a first pass, and it certainly doesn't have to be perfect. Your CSM will support you in both articulating your story and dialing in your elevator pitch during your 1:1.

What's in an elevator pitch?

- An elevator pitch is a 30-60 second pitch about *who you are, what you do and where you're going*. It highlights your uniqueness and is the "launchpad" for any conversation, be it in an interview or networking setting.
- A specific and personalized elevator pitch can go a long way in helping you network, will inform your online summaries, and will constitute your response to the dreaded question, "Tell me about yourself."
- Note: we provide examples below, but don't rely on them too much. Create your pitch in your own image.

Who are you in the present and what are you passionate about? (Type out your response)

Example: *"I'm a full stack developer, knowledgeable about Python and C#, and I'm super passionate about creative problem solving."*

I am a budding Front End Developer proficient in Javascript and React. I am passionate about finding solutions to coding questions and problems, and love to see my code come to life on the page.

What makes you unique and how does your past reflect that?

Example: *"I'm a really creative person and I love to build things with my hands. I have 5 years experience in sales but decided to make a career transition in order to pursue opportunities in tech where I can exercise my creativity. I recently completed an intensive 14 week coding boot camp, which helped me to enhance my knowledge of full stack software development. I'm really looking forward to joining a dynamic, collaborative team where I can share my skills and knowledge of 3 different software languages."*

What do you want to do in the future?

Example: *"Though I'm comfortable in all phases of development, I love using my experience in sales and customer service to interact with people, so I really enjoy the customer-facing aspect of front-end development. I'm looking for a mission-driven company that is working on innovative new products and services, and that shares my value for creating a positive social impact."*

As you look over your elevator pitch, does it effectively represent your strengths and values? Does it establish the throughlines that connect your past to present? Does it effectively portray your passions and how those passions relate to being a software engineer?