

Talking About Your Project in Other Contexts

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I've been spying on you...

... and I agree with Lisa, planning is key. If you want to apply these skills in other contexts, you'll need a plan for that too.



ASL Exchange @ASLXchange · 16m

Projects that turn into something vs those that stall out & go nowhere: the formulation of a reasonable, informed, and purposeful plan [#gcdri](#)



The party line on transferable skills...

Skills = “the ability to do something that comes from training, experience, or practice” (Merriam-Webster)

Transferable Skills = skills you acquire through work-related or academic experiences that can be productively applied to other work settings

Application = You have gained and enhanced skills through the GC Digital Research Institute that can be applied to other contexts, but you need to communicate these skills to potential employers in their language

So, it's actually less of a transfer...

It's more of a translation.

Translation implies a second language / a specific audience. A from and a to.
English→Hungarian; Chinese→French

Who is your intended audience? What language do they speak?

What is most important to them? Your hard skills, your knowledge base, your project management skills?

Two hated pieces of advice

Networking

(informational interviewing)

Read job descriptions

- Indeed
- Hercjobs
- Idealist
- LinkedIn

Why read job descriptions?

Am I interested in this type of work?

What types of employers look for this skill?

How large is the market for this skill?

What level of experience do employers expect?

If so, how would what I'm doing now relate?



Marissa Kinsey @RiisRemBawd · Jun 8

Cleaning my data, tokenizing my text...on a serious role here and kind of in love.

[#GCDRI](#)



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Most importantly, identify your gaps

If there are big gaps between where you are and where you'd like to be, make a plan.



Lisa Marie Rhody
@lmrhody



 Follow

@MusicoloJake Takes a lot of practice, but that is what the PUG, python user group, meetings are for
digitalfellows.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2015/10/15/pyt... #gcdri

So, let's talk about some general skills

Analysis

Written communication

Problem solving

Oral communication

Research

Teaching

Information management

Interpersonal

Project management

Leadership

Organization

Break your skills down further

Skill = Research

Identify problem

Conceptualize and devise solution

Communicate with team members; delegate tasks

Create research plan

Conduct preliminary research; gather background information

Synthesize large amounts of material

Employ technology

Listen to and incorporate constructive, helpful feedback

Maintain and clean data

Analyze data; apply specific analytical techniques and use software

Write reports

Present findings in an effective manner

Your project plan can help you with this

Example: App to Locate HIV Testing Clinics

Conceptualize idea, identify target population and the problem

Research HIV testing issue and population

Devise solution to knowing where to get tested (the app)

Anticipate issues using the app

Make a plan for app

Discuss solution and plan with team (what is your unique contribution)

Create mock-ups of app

Build app (using what tech?)

Pretest app

Conduct focus groups with target population

Rework app

Edit audio

Launch and market app

So... how do you talk about all that

(what this presentation is
supposed to be about)

STAR is your friend

Situation / Task(s) / Action / Result

(can be used to describe almost
any type of experience.)

(will keep you from being lost in
your own verbiage.)

(can be as long or as short as you
need it to be.)

(flexible. What you emphasize will
change depending on the context.)

Exercise: Basic practice with STAR

Tell me about a time when you were the lead on a project...

Turn to your neighbor...

Go...

(Also a good base for a pitch / branding / elevator speech)

Context: Data Analyst Job at Etsy

Have 1-3 years experience as a quantitative or business analyst in which you extracted meaning from big data sets with little engineering support

Can communicate your insights verbally, visually and in writing

Care deeply about the quality of your data and the integrity of your work

Care about reproducible work and have picked up tools to this end; you can teach others how to make their own work better and more efficient

Passionate about subjects such as experimental design, data visualization, and statistical analysis techniques.

Be able to point us to something you've built or analyzed you're proud of

Proficient in SQL and either R or Python. Bonus points for experience with the Hadoop ecosystem or additional scripting languages (Scala, PHP, Ruby, etc.)

Think / Pair / Share

Pick one of these.

How does what you've done at GCDRI apply?

What would you say if you were talking to someone about how you could do this job?

Where to share your skills...

- Focus on your transferable, motivated skills when looking for jobs
 - Where is the match? Review the tasks and responsibilities of job.
- Branding or 15 Second Pitch
 - What top skills do you want to share with THIS contact?
- Highlight skills on resume
 - Start bullet points with action verbs that convey skills: “Wrote” for writing skill, “Present” for presentation skills
 - Incorporate top skills in Summary Statement
- Include in cover letter
 - What top skills do you want the reader to remember about you? What are they looking for?
- Incorporate skills in LinkedIn profile
 - Add to Headline, Summary, Experience, Education, Skills & Expertise (up to 50)
- Convey skills through interviews
 - What makes you unique? What are your strengths?

Additional Career Assessment

Our office offers The SkillScan - focuses on identifying transferable skills and how they fit with various occupations

Also:

- The Strong Interest Inventory (focus on interests)
- The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (focus on personality traits)
- Other Informal Tools

Thank you!