Career Services Assignment 4 – Soft Skill Interview Prep

Points possible: 50

Category	Criteria	% of Grade
Completeness	All requirements of the assignment are complete.	50
Quality	Answers show thought, proper grammar, and would be acceptable in most interview situations.	50

Instructions: Find a job post online for a role and company you would like to apply for. Answer the following questions as if you were being interviewed for the job. Research the STAR method of answering behavioral interview questions and where applicable, utilize the STAR method in answering the below questions.

How did you hear about this position? (Make sure you remember where you heard about the role so it doesn't look like you are just applying randomly to every position possible.)

Scanning LinkedIn saved searches for remote AI positions. I've been aware of Toyon from previous applications.

What do you know about the company? (Research the company, website, products/services, and reviews. Talk about good reviews that make you want to join.)

Toyon combines remote sensing and AI to contract out DOD/Aerospace applications.

Why do you want this job? (Be very specific. Talk about what appeals to you about the role but focus more on the value you'll add to the team and company rather than what the company will do for you.)

I've had a fascination with applying AI to remote sensing since the work I've done in college. For an entry level position, I'm already bringing some experience to the table having built feed forward, back-propagation neural networks to analyze LANDSAT data and output LandUse/LandCover maps.

Why should we hire you? (Be very specific. Talk about your skills, passion, and willingness to continuously learn to be an asset.) I have experience with pattern recognition using remote sensing systems (LANDSAT). I've used GPS receivers to read NMEA-formatted data and geo-timestamp video streams in real time. I've developed a Direct3D sound engine for a commercial

computer game. That may not mean I'm able to develop 3D, AI based Aerospace applications on day one, but I'm ready to learn@

What is your greatest professional achievement? (STAR)

A Fortune 500 company hired a large, well-known consultancy to develop a database for their virtual inventory with a web-based sales and management portal. The project was budgeted for a year to be completed. Nine months into the project, the company dropped the consultancy and asked the consultant group to which I was employed to take on the project.

The goal was for a team of three people to implement from the ground up, a fully populated, live MS-SQL database along with a web-based portal for customers to shop and sales staff to manage within three months.

We implemented a solutions framework that allowed for iterative, yet rapid, development with client participation and buy-in throughout the process. I was responsible for developing software to parse incoming manufactures' inventory faxes and emails into stored SQL procedures which then updated the database. I also developed the UI for the web portal as well aa many of the pages.

The result was that we were able to deliver a solution feature complete, on time, and on budget were our competition failed to deliver with far greater resources at their disposal. I operated under tight discipline and focus during those three months and was extremely productive as a result.

Describe a difficult work situation and how you overcame it. (STAR. Never speak negatively about anyone else or any companies. Perhaps talk about change you experiences, as change is always difficult to overcome.)

I was contracting to a large, multinational client. My job was to test hardware performance with drivers that were themselves, untested. As a contractor, I was not allowed to see the driver code, yet there seemed to be an expectation that I would be able to trouble shoot it.

I needed to perform a series of commercial tests on the various builds of hardware/firmware/drivers presented to me.

I stuck to the tasks and tests I could perform and continued to offer my help wherever I could aid the client.

The result was that my agency placed me in an excellent new position at the end of the current contract. While my assignment was difficult and unrewarding, my efforts were noticed and rewarded with a new position where I became a vital and mission critical resource.

What are your goals for the future? (Make sure you answer in a time bound manner and talk about how you are looking to learn as much as possible in your field.)

I am looking to be employed by the beginning of 2023 in a position where I can (re)achieve associates' level by 2024 and senior by 2025. Thus, I hope to have a large training component with whoever I'm employed.

Why are you leaving your last job? (Don't say anything negative. Mention growth, changing industries, etc.)

I am looking to come out of a state of semi-retirement and keep myself busy being productive, useful, and engaged.

What is your salary expectation?

For an entry level position, I would look for anything from $90,000 to $120,000 with an expectation for growth.