1. Tell me about yourself.

This is a very broad category, with little clarify in what self and characteristics the audience (whomever “me” is!) requires.

But for the relevancy of the Coding Dojo program, I can try to come up with some basics:

I have been involved professionally in Tech since 1995. I had just graduated from Portland Community college with an Associates degree in Computer Software Engineering Technology. My first job was in Testing at a company that specialized in virtual Analogy component simulations that can be combined with digital counterparts to create “Virtual” working systems that can be designed and tested before the physical poduct is ever produced. I worked 4 years testing on UNIX OS machines… mainly doing regression testing… ensuring that recent software updates have not affected expected functionality.

I went on to other jobs that varied from Systems administrator to Customer support and later worked many Microsoft contracts, primarily in the area of Test Automation.

In all those contracts over the years I got very little exposure to actual coding, and that has been a source of frustration, but I have observed that I get the MOST satisfaction and enjoyment from coding problems and challenges.

Nevertheless, I have over the years been exposed to software engineering in various capacities over the years but I never felt confident enough that I could make the claim that I was a desirable candidate for elevation to a higher level of profession . In other words I could not make any honest claims to “experience” in the profession of Software Engineering… other than my own small explorations with no accreditation or project I could point to.

So My motivation of joining the Coding Dojo program is that I will be able to “prove” my compentency in Software coding and engineering and improve my chances in the future of getting hired to do work that is much more satisfying and rewarding on a daily basis.

1. Why are you interested in working for X company?
   1. I do not want to be just a cog in a vast wheel, where my contributions, however humble, are barely acknowledged.
   2. I want to work in a supportive environment where I am encouraged to explore solutions to problems in software, or at least in Software testing that can improve overall goals of efficiency and effective issue detection and management as “bugs” and engineering deficiencies reveal themselves,
   3. I also won’t shy away from acknowledging that I would like to increase my annual salary substantially so that I can further pursue other non-professional goals, (such as in the creative production of electronic music. Which can be an expensive hobby! )
   4. I would like to work for an organization that has an overall vision of improving the future of our world and everyone in it… not just the bottom line.
2. Tell me about a tie you disagreed with your manager/colleague. How did you approach this situation?
   1. In my previous roll, I worked 4 years for Wipro, a company primarily based in India that serves as a Partner company with Microsoft. My manager resides in a major city in India and because of the time difference and cultural and language issues, I often found it hard to 1) follow what he was saying exactly (ironic because we all conversed in English… he spoke so rapidly I was always impoloring him to slow down his speech!).. and sometimes the requirements set by Microsoft for deadlines and Testing analysis mileposts.. left of us often with too much to do, and not enough time adequately complete our objectives. Communication was difficult and I felt there was a resultant lack of team morale and cohesion, which I did not feel I had the capability (or authority) to resolve.   
      The worse result of this chronic problem was that many of the team participants did not have a good sense of how we were doing… Were we meeting expectations? What needed improving? When did we “succeed” vs. when did we “fail”? We would get hints during nightly discussions (I had to attend night meetings to accommodate India hours). Issues would come up, but I never felt I received clear direction on what actions needed to addressed to improve the overall production.   
      I am working a new job now.. at Adobe. The job is Much more local (2 miles from my house!) .. and the overall mission seems more tangible and I can get more valuable feedback from my current manager. It is difficult to conjure up past problems and “disagreements” now that the last role is fading into the past, so I am only describing the feeling of the environment and not specific issues and disagreements.
3. Tell me about a time you failed. How did you deal with this situation and what was the outcome?
   1. Because of the time difference, There were many instances during a typical day where My only resources for support were the client developers at Microsoft. Since most of my team members were working on India time, I could not immediately query them during my working hours. There were many times when a certain situation would arise where I would have to make an educated guess about what action to take. I can count successes in those efforts, but there were also some spectacular failures! Where my course of action was NOT sufficient to solve the problem. Documentation on resolving the problem was often miniscule or non-existent. When I did have to muddle my way through addressing an issue, I tried as much as I could to create or improve meaningful documentation so that someone else in my situation might have an easier journey the next time the issue comes up.
4. Tell me about a challenge you've overcome. To what do you attribute your success?
   1. One success story that sticks in my mind was when I was in Montana.. in early 2000 or 2001, when I was working as a technician at a Spatial (mapping) engineering company. My primary job was to look at large Arial photographs of Agricultural plots of land and drawing and labeling boundaries and plot points onto to geographic overlays of these photographs for the USDA. The work required large amounts of data For that time at least! 1 gbit/sec ethernet was a very new thing and we need to transmit and receive 2GB sized photographs! From hard drives and internet resources).   
      I was given the opportunity to do the needed research on what systems we needed to change and improve in this small sized company. Later I was able to provide recommendations and ultimately oversaw the exercise of obtaining a 1gbit ethernet routing system and a large (for that time) file server that would serve as a hub for the large number of photographic data we needed to centrally store. I became the company’s “Systems Administrator”, was doing well in that role, until the company itself failed and had to close its doors. Unfortunately, the meteoric rise of Google Maps and Google earth ate up all the small competitor fish!