Career Services Assignment: Building your Narrative

Intro:

This assignment is pre-work for the upcoming Interview Mastery Workshop.

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. **Bring your completed assignment to the Interview Mastery Workshop** - the date and time are included in the email this assignment was provided in.

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. [Professional Accomplishment]
2. [Spirituality]
3. [Power, Influence]
4. [Understanding, Helping, Serving Others]

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): ISTJ, Defender

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 Competencies67 to choose from.

Strenghts

1. Problem Solving
2. Strategic Agility
3. Standing Alone
4. Drive for Results

Weakness
1. Political Savvy
2. Dealing with Ambiguity
3. Hiring and Staffing
4. Business Acumen

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 decided to attend a coding boot camp because I wanted a change in my career. I want to do something that I feel proud of, helping others succeed, be able to work remotely, become something that not everybody has the heart to even make the effort to learn cause "Software Engineering" is intimidating. I'm a person that I need to have challenges in my life, cause that's how you prove yourself. "I want to do something that I enjoy doing everyday, I don't want to have a *REGULAR JOB* ".

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 have worked in different kinds of industries, departments and positions. Is always hard having a big change in something that you are good at, have a lot of experience and you are used to. The more you learn everyday the better person you become. Never quitting on your goals, dreams, challenges. Anybody can do everything, but that does not mean everybody has the courage of having to sacrifice for what you want. Technology is something that everyday becomes more interesting.*

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)?

> *Not staying in the comfort zone is the reason why I kept pursuing that "Professional Career" that makes sense in my life. When you experience different types of jobs you'll start seeing things that you like, dislike and that if you see yourself in that position for the rest of your life. Narrowing the list of the jobs that you have until you find the one that is just right. That's how I saw it when I started gaining knowledge of Software Engineer.*

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?

> *When I did a deep research about remote jobs and found out that there's a high demand for Software Engineer positions. I looked it up and found that it was interesting because it is challenging and not everybody wants to do it or even try it.*

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

> *It's fun cause it's challenging, sometimes too challenging. You get so into it sometimes that you feel yourself inside the computer. When you enjoy it, time goes by fast. Makes you unique, cause when you say Software Engineer people respect that title. Feeling important in the world of professionalism. When you don't give up on problem solving, you start applying that to your daily routine. Challenges become exciting even in my personal life.*

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?

My Four options of interest are:

1) *Front End Developer/Designer*
2) *Data Scientist*

3) *Full Stack Developer*
4) *Python Developer*

I want to be an important piece of a professional company. Make a difference in any job environment I get to enter. Have the experience to succeed with a company or client that I will get to work for or with.

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'm a full stack developer with knowledge in Python and I'm really passionate about creating things from the ground up.

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."*

> I'm really strict with my work and my focus is to be better everyday.I love creating something from scratch and watching it be successful and useful. I have 2 years of experience in tech from a couple of years ago, 4 years of experience as an CDL driver but I decided to make a career change back to pursuing deeper opportunities and challenges in tech. I recently completed an intensive/ accelerated 16 week coding boot camp, where it helped me to enhance my knowledge of full stack software development. I'm really looking

forward to joining a professional, dynamic, collaborative team where I can gain more experience, share my skills and knowledge of front end, back end and database with Python.

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."*

Even though there's different phases of development, It would be an honor using the experience I have gained in my past to interact with people and learn from them. I'm looking to reach the level of expertise in every single phase of development with a company that I can trust. I'm looking for a mission-driven company that is working to innovate new products and services. A company that valorate their employees and shares my value for creating a positive social impact. A company that is willing to risk to be successful and overcomes challenges as a part of their daily routine.

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?

Getting out of my comfort zone is uncomfortable, but to be able to find what you want, you have to keep looking and looking because if it would've been easy, everybody would've been a software engineer. Challenges keep you motivated in your job, sports, workouts and in your personal life.