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. [hard work and commitment]
2. [power influence]
3. [Enjoyment of the activity itself]
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): ____**ENFJ**__

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. [Receptive]
2. [Reliable]
3. [Passionate]
4. [Charismatic]

1. [Overly Idealistic]
2. [Condescending]
3. [Intense]
4. [Overly Empathetic]

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 learn coding because I see it as a wonderful thing and fulfills my future aspirations and desire to learn something new that may benefit me in the future

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 worked in commercial centers and was responsible for many things such as the center's stores, its accounts and financial transactions, and the training of new employees .

Graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting . ,

finished full stack development Boot Camp .

I a Full Stack web developer , with a background in accounting, management and marketing, in addition to a few economic matters .

because of my great interest in it and that I see myself as better in it , I changed my career direction from an accountant to a web developer .

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)?

The link is always the same reason, which is to achieve a new success or a goal that I still want to achieve, and it may be achieved through this profession

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 found that my previous major may not suit me or meet my future needs, and that it may not fit the current and future market requirements, I decided to learn coding and build on it in the future.
There are many difficulties that I encountered, including that I have no prior knowledge of anything related to web developer or coding, and without any scientific background about it .

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

What I prefer about coding is that it touches the advanced and future business, that it may not be routine and there is something new every day, and also that sometimes you can work remotely, which gives you the freedom of where you live

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?

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, knowledgeable about Languages: Java • JavaScript • Python • PHP • SQL • HTML5 • CSS I Libraries: React • BootStrap I Frameworks: Express • Flask • Electron I Tools: React Router • Jinja • Axios I Control Systems: Git • GitHub • MS Project I ERP: SAP • Oracle • QAD • P21 Databases: T-SQL • MySQL • MongoDB , and I'm super passionate about creative problem solving.

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 a really creative person and I love to build things with my hands. I have 2 years experience in accounting and 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 20 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 Or more

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."

> *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.*

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?

Yes :)