**Supercharge Your Interview Prep with NotebookLM and the STAR Method**

**Summary:**

* **NotebookLM** is a personalized AI research assistant that helps you prepare for interviews by analyzing your uploaded materials—like resumes, job descriptions, and STAR method guides.
* To get started, go to [notebooklm.google.com](https://notebooklm.google.com), create a new notebook, and upload relevant documents (e.g., resume, job posting, STAR method tips).
* You can prompt it with:  
  *“Please suggest three interview questions I might be asked when applying for [job title] and suggest how I might answer them using the STAR method based on my resume.”*
* In the example, Sage—who worked in restaurant operations—uploads her resume and a project management job description. NotebookLM:
  + Generates realistic interview questions
  + Crafts tailored STAR-based answers using her actual experience
* STAR method in action:
  + **Situation**: During high-volume dinner service
  + **Task**: Needed to resolve a sensitive complaint
  + **Action**: Collaborated with kitchen staff and offered dessert
  + **Result**: Positive review, avoided bad publicity
* NotebookLM can even generate **audio summaries** for listening on the go—ideal for commuting or mobile review.
* **Key takeaway**: Use AI tools like NotebookLM to anticipate, prepare, and rehearse personalized, high-impact interview responses—faster and smarter.

**Level up your interview prep with NotebookLM**



NotebookLM is an AI-powered research and thinking partner from Google, designed to help you understand, synthesize, and generate insights from your own collection of documents. Unlike many AI models that draw information from the broader internet, NotebookLM works exclusively with the sources you upload—be it research papers, project notes, articles, personal reflections, or any other text-based material. This core feature ensures that the responses, summaries, and analyses it provides are grounded in *your* trusted information.

Broadly, NotebookLM can be used for a wide array of tasks. Students and researchers might use it to dissect complex academic papers, identify key themes across multiple sources, or draft literature reviews. Professionals could employ it to analyze lengthy reports, prepare meeting notes, or brainstorm new ideas based on existing project documentation. Writers and creators might find it helpful for organizing their thoughts, developing outlines, or even generating new content inspired by their uploaded notes. Essentially, it’s a versatile assistant for anyone looking to engage more deeply with their documents and extract valuable knowledge.

**Leveraging NotebookLM for your job search**

Now, let's consider how such an assistant can become a powerful ally in a very specific and often challenging endeavor: preparing for a job interview. Landing an interview is a huge step in your job search, and the preparation phase is crucial. You want to enter your interview confident, knowledgeable, and ready to articulate why you're the perfect fit. This is where NotebookLM’s ability to work with your specific documents transforms it into a personalized interview prep assistant.

NotebookLM helps you make sense of all your interview-related materials. You can upload documents like job descriptions, your resume, company research (such as saved articles, website text, or annual reports), your own notes on potential questions, or industry trend reports. NotebookLM then uses these specific sources to do things like:

* **Summarize key information:** If you've uploaded lengthy documents, or linked to sites with lots of text, NotebookLM can quickly summarize the core takeaways. This saves you valuable preparation time and ensures you grasp the essential information needed to understand the company, its culture, and the industry landscape.
  + **Example prompt 1:** *Summarize the main points of the article I’ve linked.*
  + **Example prompt 2:***What are the 3 most important things to know about [Company Name] based on the documents I've provided?*
* **Create custom study aids:** Based on your uploaded sources, NotebookLM can generate helpful resources like FAQs about the company or role, study guides focusing on key areas, or outlines for your talking points. This helps you organize your thoughts, reinforce crucial information, and prepare a structured approach to answering questions.
  + **Example prompt 1:** *Create a list of frequently asked questions about [company name] based on the documents I've uploaded.*
  + **Example prompt 2:** *Generate a study guide outlining the key skills and experiences mentioned in the job description*
* **Produce audio overviews:** For convenient review, especially when you're on the go, NotebookLM can create audio outputs from your interview prep documents. This could be a summary of key points, an audio version of a Q&A you've worked on, or other useful verbal rundowns.
  + **Example prompt 1:** *Create an audio summary of the key points from my interview preparation notes.*
  + **Example prompt 2:** *Generate an audio version of the Q&A we drafted for the interview.*

In a future activity, we will also focus on learning to use NotebookLM to prepare you to answer interview questions.

With the help of NotebookLM, you can transform your interview preparation into a more focused, insightful, and efficient process. You'll be better equipped to understand the role and company, articulate your qualifications, and ultimately, enter your interview feeling well-prepared and more confident.