**How to Write a Standout Cover Letter for a Cybersecurity Role (Advice from Garvey, Global Staffing Manager at Google)**

**Purpose of a Cover Letter**

* A **resume** shows *what* you’ve done.
* A **cover letter** tells *who* you are.
* It’s your chance to tell the story **between the lines**—your *“why”* for cybersecurity and what drives you.

**What to Include**

**1. Personal Introduction**

* Share a bit about yourself:
  + Background, family, hobbies
  + What makes you *you* outside of work

**2. Your "Why" for Cybersecurity**

* Why this field?
* What personal or professional experience led you here?
  + Example: being impacted by cybercrime
  + Or watching someone else go through it
* Convey **passion** and **purpose**

**3. Your Unique Value**

* What sets you apart from other candidates?
  + Life transitions?
  + Overcoming adversity?
  + Unique soft skills (e.g., empathy, communication, leadership)?
* Highlight **transferable skills** and **motivations**

**4. Career Transition (if applicable)**

* Explain your reason for switching careers.
* What was missing before, and why cybersecurity excites you?
* Make your decision feel intentional and meaningful.

**5. Company Fit**

* Customize your letter to the **specific company**:
  + Reference their **mission**, **products**, and **values**
  + Show that your goals align with theirs
* Never use a **generic cover letter**—tailor each one!

**Style Tips**

* Be **bold**, **clear**, and **concise**
* **Keep it simple**—no complex words needed
* Make it **attention-grabbing** at the start
* Aim to **engage the reader’s mind and interest**
* Think of it as answering:

“Why should I care about this person?”

**Length**

* No strict rules, but:
  + Aim for **3–5 short paragraphs**
  + Enough to tell your story without losing attention

**Final Reminder**

A great cover letter shows who you are, why you care, and why you belong at *that* company in *that* role. Use your voice. Be real. Be bold.