

Payton Macdonald - Week 10

X - Read all worksheets and articles. *DONE*

X - Create a draft of an elevator pitch.

Tell me about yourself

I'm a web designer with a lot of experience.

I code and create full stack applications with frameworks like Vue or I build websites clean and easily with applications like squarespace. I know how to use many major Adobe programs like Photoshop.

I studied advertising at university so I've made radio, video, and printed advertisements and now I make web applications.

Knowing those Adobe programs like photoshop and illustrator has allowed me to create all my own assets for the applications I build.

Now I'm looking to use everything I've learned in a high-caliber corporate environment.

X - Record a 90 second elevator pitch. *Video on github*

X - Pick 5 questions from the Common Interview Questions article and create STAR responses to each question.

1. Tell me about a time you failed. How did you deal with the situation?

A major turning point in my career was right at the beginning. I was applying to be an advertising creative at my Universities Student Run Adlab. The bottom line was, if you get in, you'll get a great job. I did not get in... and I did not get a great job after graduation. I put in so much work to apply as well. 40+ hours were put into my application portfolio and I failed. Moving on was hard, but if I face that disappointment again I need to remember there's always things I CAN do and that I AM good at. So I moved on and learned to code. I don't give up, instead. I stand up and move forward.

2. Give me an example of a time when you had to think on your feet in order to delicately extricate yourself from a difficult or awkward situation.

During my capstone project in coding bootcamp, I had a lot going on with my homelife and my emotions were repressed and my mind was stressed. I had an impasse on a simple decision with a co-worker and started to have an emotional breakdown. So I quickly separated myself and explained to my teammates and supervisor my situation via electronic messaging. I did not

give up though, I made an effort to stay and work. I focused on what I could do, and did it well. I had to separate myself though. I just couldn't handle social interaction those few days. All in all I'm better for it. When life gets difficult I know how to handle those types of situations.

3. Describe a long-term project that you managed. How did you keep everything moving along in a timely manner?

While studying at university, I had a massive biology project thrown at me rather than a final exam. It would require a lot of preparation but group projects had become my specialty. Because if my teammates are for it... I take the lead and keep us organized. I stayed in contact and made sure we had progress checks and everyone had equal roles. Now that I've learned the SCRUM techniques, it's easy to see how much I've implemented them in my academia.

4. Sometimes it's just not possible to get everything on your to-do list done. Tell me about a time your responsibilities got a little overwhelming. What did you do?

I have notes in my phone from one of the hardest working days of my life. I call it the dreaded wednesday. From 6am all the way until 8am I was doing something hour by hour. It was a long day, but when I know a long day is coming or when something will be extremely complicated, then I live by the list. I make a list that plans out each and every step of the day or project and I stick to it.

5. Tell me about a successful presentation you gave and why you think it was a hit.

One of my best grades I received was on a persuasive speech. My class was 80% women and I decided to choose a challenging subject. The topic of my speech was "Spiders are not Scary." It received a 98%, the reason I did so well was simply because of my preparation and passion for the speech. Extra effort is always worth it. I created cute drawings for my presentation and I planned a theme and message, basically making it a performance rather than a speech. It was well worth it and a lot of fun.

X - Write out a brief summary of some things you can do to prepare for an interview or make yourself stand out as a candidate.

To summarize what I need to do in order to improve my interviews I can think of quite a few things. First, I need to memorize my interview answers. Employers ask the same questions and I've always just winged my responses. That needs to change. Second, I need some powerful takeaways. A good business card and some custom handwritten letter cards. There's a lot of stuff I could personally make that will help me stand out. Third and probably last is that I need to address my wardrobe. I always figured a suit was the way to go but times have changed. I think I have good outfits but I'll need to get opinions on them before I know they're good to go.

X - Practice 2 whiteboard challenges with a peer, write a brief summary about the experience.

*Challenges: FizzBuzz, Find the Vowel
Partner: Jared*

Summary

I did a lot better than I thought I would. I have come to understand how to properly do a whiteboard challenge. I knew how to setup, when to ask for help, and how to actively speak while 'performing'

Jared did really well but he was nervous. I was the same way at the start. I really had to get in the middle of the challenge before I became comfortable. If my rhythm is messed up I begin to lock up, so I'll need to have a process when my whiteboard flow gets shook.

X - Write down 5 questions you would like to ask an employer at the end of an interview (not regarding pay and benefits).

- 1. What is something I can do to learn more about this company's market or field of expertise?*
- 2. What kind of job did you start with in this career field?*
- 3. What's the coolest application you've built? (What kind of hobbies do people working here have?)*
- 4. What is the best and most convenient time and way to contact you?*
- 5. Will there be a follow-up interview? Who will be there?*

X - Use the above article as a guide. Finalize your resume Attach all items to Github Slack Github to Brittany- due next Thursday by 9am