Elevator pitch draft:

I'm excited to be here and thank you for taking the time to interview me. My previous back-round has been in retail management at an agriculture company (Zamzows). I started out as a warehouseman and after a few months I was given a promotion to a manager. My expertise was diagnosing plant problems and providing a solution that fit the customers needs. A little later I worked in landscape as a foreman. During my time there my wife was going through a coding bootcamp. That was my first exposure to software development. I really enjoyed watching the whole process of how software development works. I have recently attended that same bootcamp where we learned from experienced senior developers. During my time there I have built a few full stack applications individually as well as collaboratively. I'm excited to continue to develop as it is my new found passion.(timed right at 60 seconds).

5 questions to ask at the end of the interview:
1.) How much coding will I be doing in the position?
2.) How will my performance be measured?
3.) How does the company handle new software/training when languages change?
4.) What is the current structure of the development team and how does this role fit in that structure?
5.) Which software development methodology does the development team use?

Answer 5 questions using the star method

1.) Tell me a time you were under a lot of pressure. What was going on? How did you work through it?
> I was working with 1 other developer on a scrum oriented web application. We had just finished an application using Vue 3. At that point it was our first one using Vue.
> We had 3 and a half days to build a full stack application. At first we had some decent progress, but during the second and third day we were nowhere near where we needed to be in order to finish on time.
> I suggested we timebox ourselves better and take more breaks. We were both pretty stressed because of the time crunch, but coding under pressure is never a good thing.
> We both agreed, took more breaks and made a better schedule for ourselves to give us a little more of a brain break and we finished our project on time. From that time I have made it a point to not forget to take a break.

2.) Describe a time when you had to interact with a difficult client. What was the situation, and how did you handle it?
> I was working at Zamzows as an assistant store manager. It was summer time and many customers would come in and have us identify a weed in their lawn. While i was finishing up with a customer i had another customer who i can see is not in the greatest mood come up to me and yell what is this. She told me she tried everything she had to try and get rid of this weed but couldn't.

I stayed calm and proceeded to tell her what it was and how to fix it and how to prevent it from coming back. Though she was still angry, I told her what she needed to do to fix her weed problem.

To help the situation, I told her I would write off the chemical that would fix her problem and walked her through the instructions on how to apply the product.

A few days later while I was at work I got a tap on the shoulder and it was that same customer. She told me she was sorry for how she acted and how thankful she was that I still helped her the way I did and from now on I would be the one to help her for any other plant related issues.

3.) Tell me about a time you managed many responsibilities, how did you manage that?

While working for Zamzows as an assistant store manager you are expected to handle multiple responsibilities like running the floor by helping customers, budgets (monthly and yearly), inventory orders, handling store money(counting tills multiple times a day and nightly deposits), and paperwork.

The best thing to do is get on a schedule. Time management is very important. With having all the responsibilities of a manager there wasn't enough time in the day to get it all done. Breaking it up into smaller pieces and tackling them one at a time is the best solution.

The customers are top priority if the store is slow then you can focus on other priorities, Submit the orders a day or two early in case of any issues. I came in early a couple days before the budgets were due and finalized them and sent them off before we opened. As for the paperwork that is done in the evening after the store is closed.

There were many more things to add to the list but with the organization of your time and skills you are able to achieve many things. It's important to time box yourself and push yourself to be better.

4.) Describe a time when you saw some problem and took the initiative to correct it rather than waiting for someone else to do it

I was working as a landscape foreman. We had just finished a job putting in full landscape at a customer's home. As we were cleaning up I noticed a sprinkler was leaking and water was coming up from the side of the sprinkler.

I had a good idea what the problem was and decided to fix it. It wouldn't require too much extra work but depending on why it was leaking could require a 5 minute fix or 45 minute.

I dug up the sprinkler and found the sprinkler was not press fitted correctly and the water pressure pushed it out just enough to make it leak. I went to the sprinkler timer, shut the water off and dug up the sprinkler, fixed the pipe and re-installed the sprinkler. Once I turned the water back on it didn't leak after that.

To be honest I did this a few times and no one is aware of it. They were small enough issues that I didn't think anyone needed talking to about how to put a sprinkler in.

Summary of how to prepare for an interview and how to stand out.

An interview starts in the lobby so always be nice and courteous to everyone. It's ingrained in my brain to be this way so I shouldn't have any problems with that. Be enthusiastic but not over the top be myself but still professional. Prepare for the most asked question of tell me about yourself and or why i feel im qualified for this position and or why do you want to work here. This is something I'm working on and feel it will go a long way in an interview. Be honest and humble. Dont lie in an interview and don't make yourself vulnerable. Maybe imitate the behavior of the interviewer within reason. If they have a good amount of energy don't be dry and boring or the opposite if they are calm and professional dont be crazy and have too much energy in the room. If i make a mistake let it go and keep focused on the current moment. If the interviewer sees I made a mistake and can see me move on with confidence that may be the contributing factor of me getting a job. Ask good questions when they ask. See list above. As always, say thank you and keep good manners.

White board challenges with peers

Last night I did the white board challenge Jake gave out. Once I was finished he congratulated me on solving it correctly. There were a couple small syntax errors but he told me good job. After I sat down he told me something I'll never forget. He said to be honest I don't care if you get the problem right….. Yet….. I'm looking at how you write your code. Without a huge explanation I'll never look at a white board challenge the same in a very good way. I'm happy he said the things he did and I'm going to push to be better.

Few weeks ago I did another white board challenge with Justin called high noon. I struggled with that one probably more than I should have but what that challenge taught me was to take each step individually and think it through. Pseudo code is a great skill to develop. I'm still working on that