

The Complete Reference

Swapneel's
classic guide
now updated
and explained
for 2017

Internships

First Edition

► Comprehensive Guide
to the entire process

► Convert wanderlust
into internships



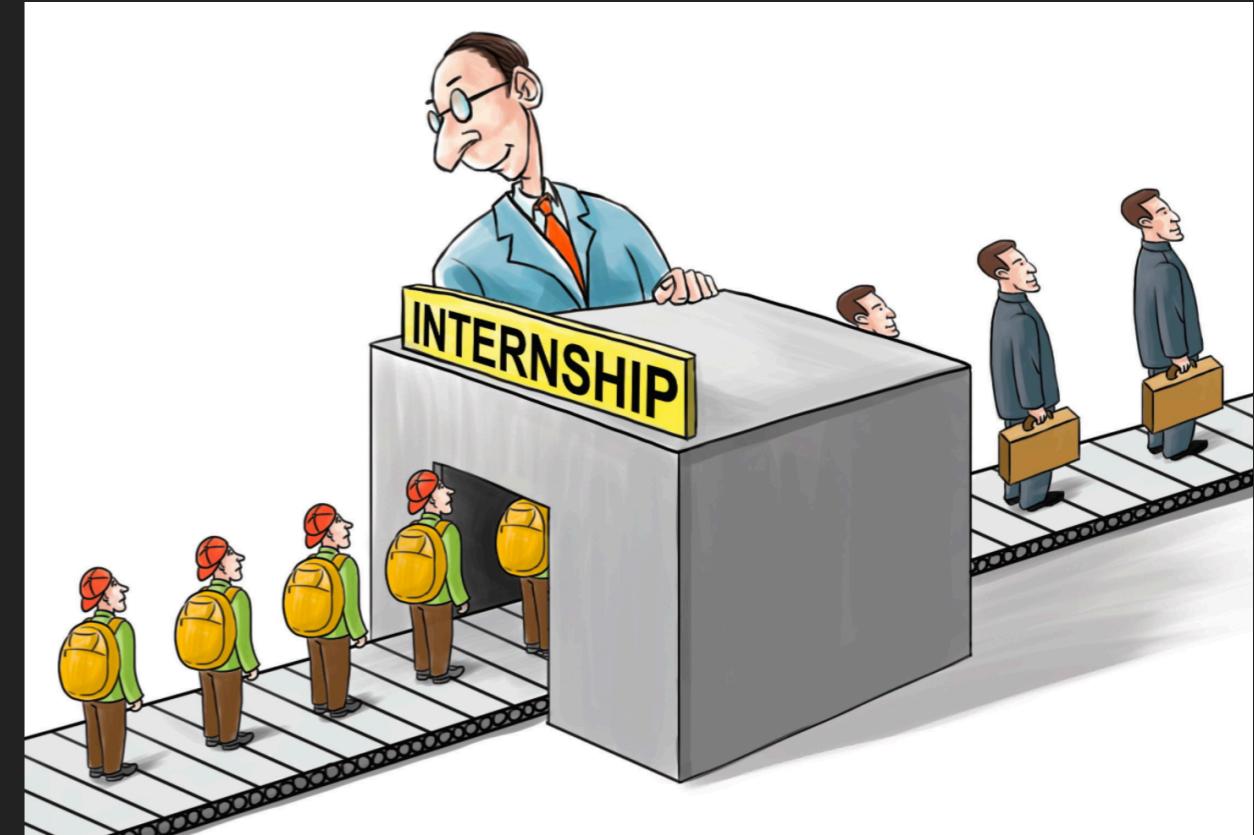
Swapneel
Mehta
Intern at IITB,
MSR, CERN

The Part where People are still Awake

INTRODUCTION

WHY INTERN?

- ▶ Step out of the classroom
- ▶ Learn as well as apply new skills
- ▶ Gain “real-world” experience



And if that still isn't convincing enough...

- ▶ Paisa, bro.

Disclaimer: This is a pretty stupid reason to intern

WHERE CAN I INTERN?

Domestic
Internships

International
Internships

Firms, Startups

Programs

IITs, IAS, NITs

Professors

INTERNING AT FIRMS AND STARTUPS

- ▶ Trade-offs : Small vs. Mid-size vs. Large Corporations
- ▶ Working overtime is (arguably) better than no work!
- ▶ Lots of opportunities, but also lots of applicants for larger firms



Application guidelines? Keep at it.

WHY ARE YOU EVEN READING THIS PART ANYMORE ?

WHY GETTING PAID IS IMPORTANT (DOMESTIC INTERNSHIPS)

- ▶ Stipend = Value Attached to You = Work Expected of You
- ▶ Indicates how seriously an intern is taken at a company
- ▶ Proves you didn't just use "Pappa ke dost" to get in



IMHO though, if the work is interesting and the people are good, just do it for the experience

IIT, IAS, NIT INTERNSHIPS

- ▶ Summer and Winter Internship Programs set up at most IITs
- ▶ Email Professors at NITs, IIISCs
- ▶ Indian Academies of Science (IAS) Scholarship awards Summer Internships from all the above institutes!



"Mera baba finally IIT mein jayega"

ADVANTAGES OF DOMESTIC INTERNSHIPS

- ▶ Easier to get into than internships abroad
- ▶ Expenditure is not much even if it is unpaid
- ▶ Continued Collaboration
- ▶ Build a professional network



Forget dad's contacts, make some of your own!

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

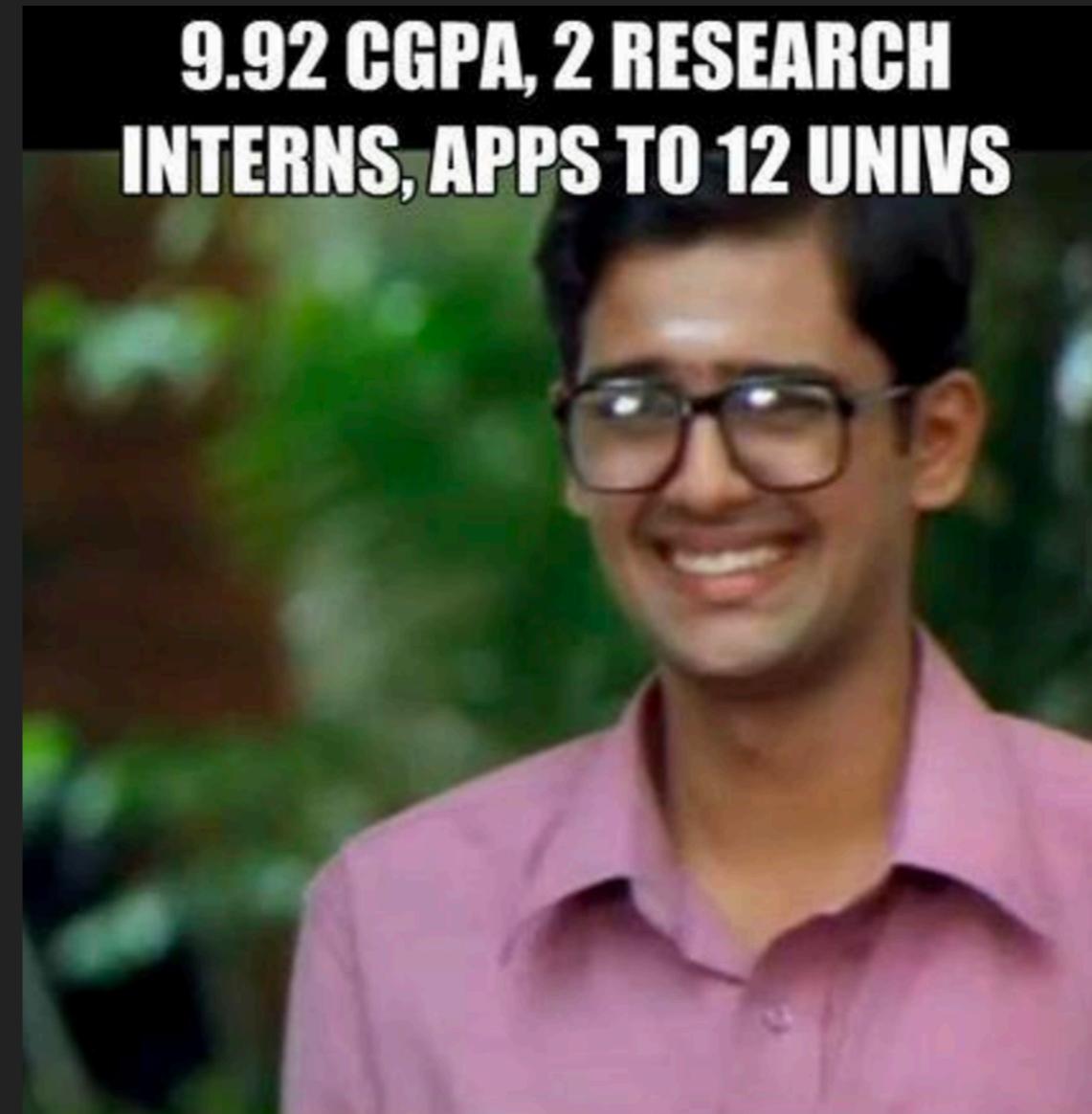
- ▶ Opportunities open across the globe
- ▶ Generally sponsored, and well-planned
- ▶ Needs a proven track record of skills
- ▶ Application process is long and intensive



TLDR; such effort, (but) much amaze

WRITING TO PROFESSORS DIRECTLY

- ▶ You need to have a great profile for consideration
- ▶ Emails need to be succinct, eloquent
- ▶ Usually 1-5 percent response rate
- ▶ Patience is key



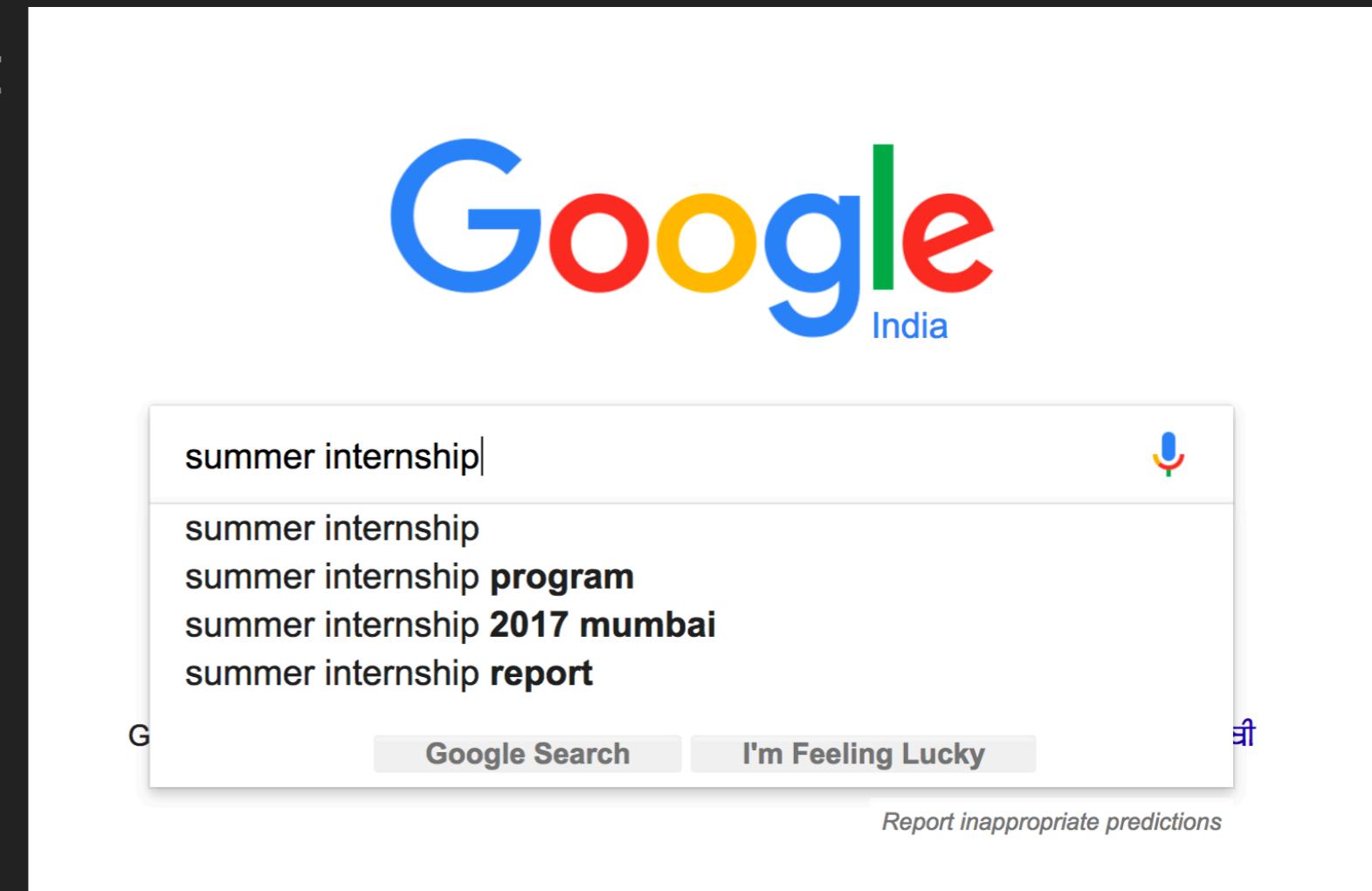
FYI this is probably who you're competing with for international internships

“Abbey uth jaa, ab kaam ki baat kar raha hain”

GETTING AN INTERNSHIP

HOW TO GET STARTED?

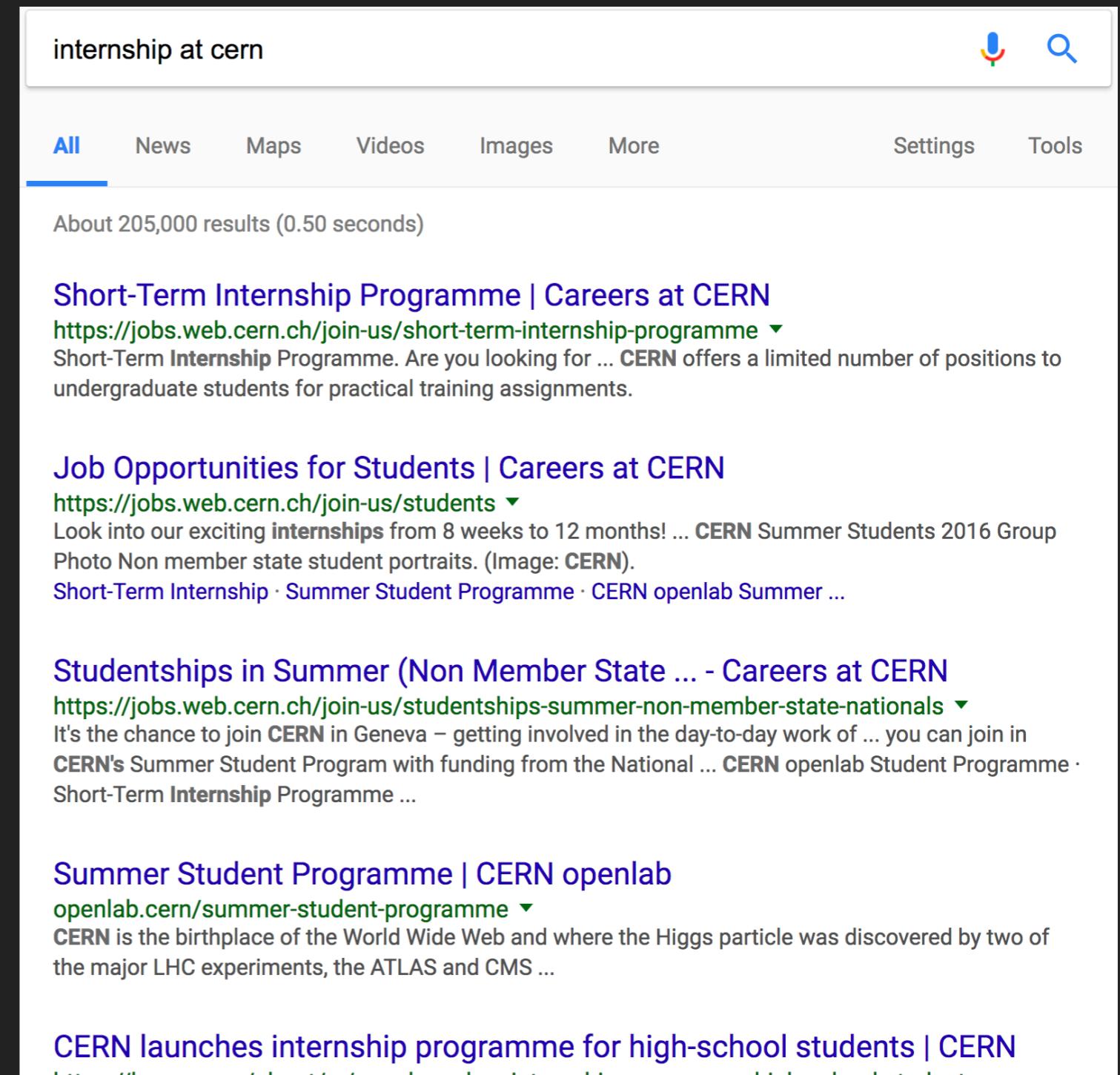
- ▶ Find information about the places you wish to apply to
- ▶ Read above instruction
- ▶ Take a break
- ▶ Get back to it



To all those asking “Where do I start my search?”

REQUIREMENT GATHERING

- ▶ Find a Program listing online
- ▶ Determine your Eligibility criteria
- ▶ Prepare your essays, CV
- ▶ Verify all application details REPEATEDLY



A screenshot of a Google search results page. The search query "internship at cern" is entered in the search bar. Below the search bar, there are tabs for All, News, Maps, Videos, Images, More, Settings, and Tools. The "All" tab is selected. The search results show approximately 205,000 results found in 0.50 seconds. The first result is a link to the "Short-Term Internship Programme | Careers at CERN" with the URL <https://jobs.web.cern.ch/join-us/short-term-internship-programme>. The description below the link states: "Short-Term Internship Programme. Are you looking for ... CERN offers a limited number of positions to undergraduate students for practical training assignments." The second result is a link to "Job Opportunities for Students | Careers at CERN" with the URL <https://jobs.web.cern.ch/join-us/students>. The description below the link states: "Look into our exciting internships from 8 weeks to 12 months! ... CERN Summer Students 2016 Group Photo Non member state student portraits. (Image: CERN). Short-Term Internship · Summer Student Programme · CERN openlab Summer ...". The third result is a link to "Studentships in Summer (Non Member State ... - Careers at CERN" with the URL <https://jobs.web.cern.ch/join-us/studentships-summer-non-member-state-nationals>. The description below the link states: "It's the chance to join CERN in Geneva – getting involved in the day-to-day work of ... you can join in CERN's Summer Student Program with funding from the National ... CERN openlab Student Programme · Short-Term Internship Programme ...". The fourth result is a link to "Summer Student Programme | CERN openlab" with the URL openlab.cern/summer-student-programme. The description below the link states: "CERN is the birthplace of the World Wide Web and where the Higgs particle was discovered by two of the major LHC experiments, the ATLAS and CMS ...". The fifth result is a link to "CERN launches internship programme for high-school students | CERN" with the URL <https://cern.ch/cern-launches-internship-programme-for-high-school-students>.

Google is a great place for finding internships

APPLICATION FILLING

- ▶ Register your account
- ▶ Add Education Details
- ▶ Upload Documents
- ▶ Draft essays explaining your interests
- ▶ Explain past experience and relevant projects

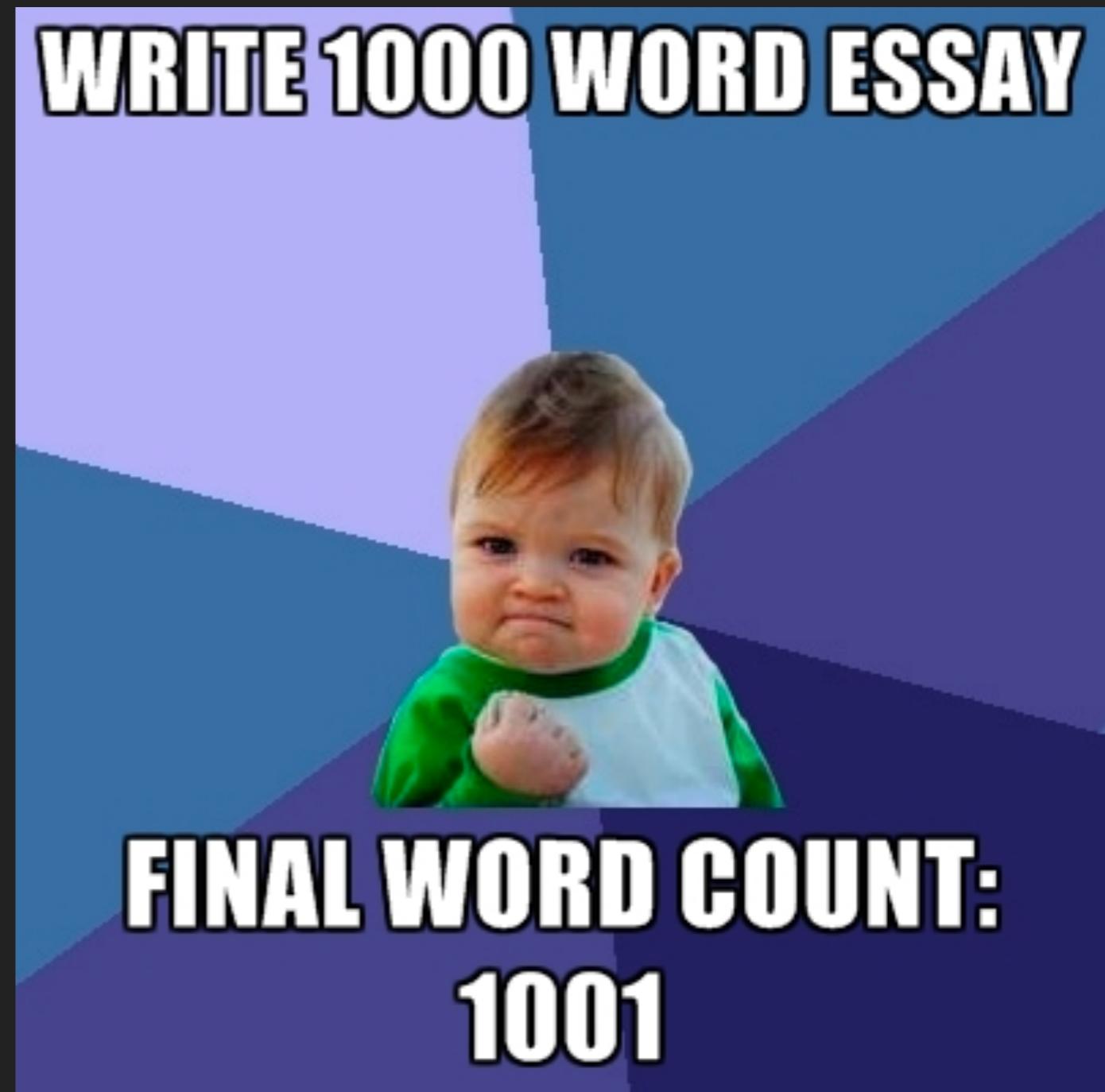
"This isn't something you can do the night before"



Sometimes, memes show great wisdom

ESSAY WRITING

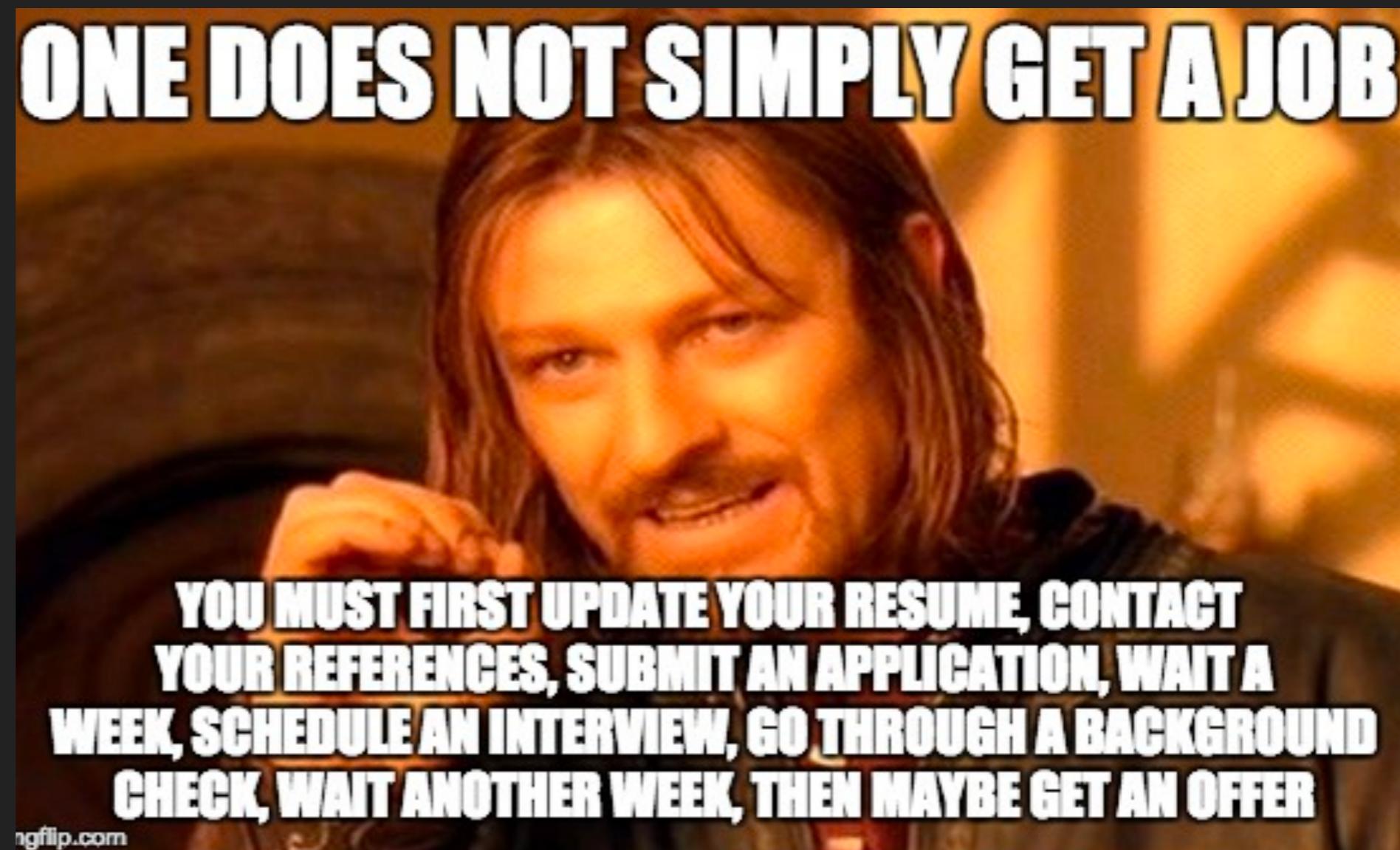
- ▶ Motivation to Apply
- ▶ Past experience, Social Work undertaken
- ▶ Web Technologies
- ▶ Database Technologies
- ▶ Frameworks
- ▶ It's all about projects!



Sometimes, they don't

DOCUMENT LIST

- ▶ Cover Letter
- ▶ Resume/CV
- ▶ Transcripts
- ▶ Two Letters of Referral
- ▶ Multiple Essay type Answers



Plan well in advance, Murphy's Law exists

BREAKPOINTS - I

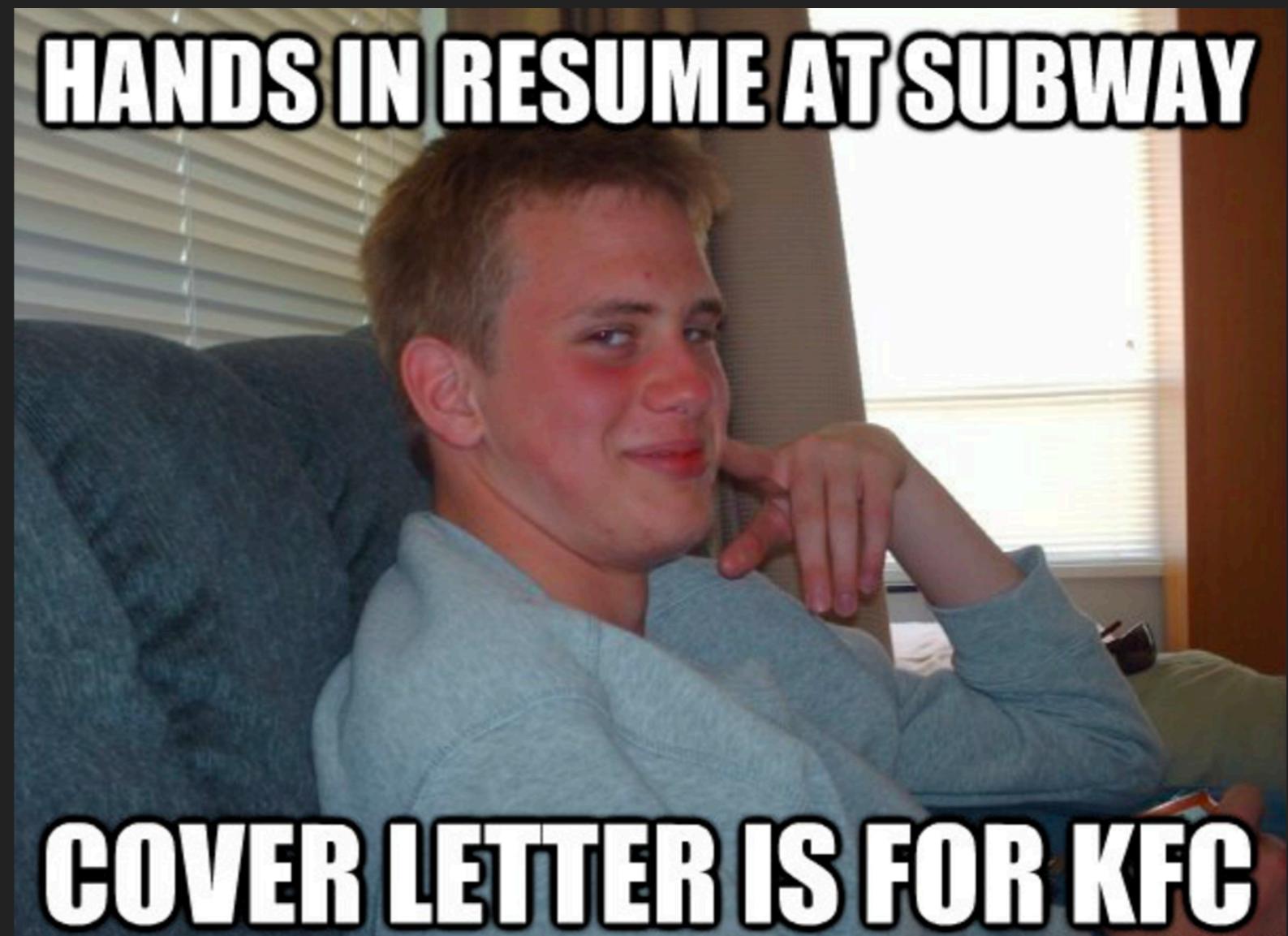
- ▶ DO NOT BLUFF
- ▶ Typographical Errors
- ▶ Falsified Data
- ▶ Prioritise important information
- ▶ Grammatical Errors



Because people like this exist...

BREAKPOINTS - II

- ▶ Essays must be well researched
- ▶ Verify application details repeatedly!
- ▶ Details of past experiences should be provided
- ▶ LinkedIn Profile



This happens more often than you'd think...

“Sir, I am Sharmaji ka beta”

PROFILE

IF THIS TITLE WAS DIFFERENT, WOULD YOU NOTICE?

IMAGE MATTERS

- ▶ LinkedIn Profile
- ▶ Github Profile
- ▶ HackerRank, SPOJ,
CodeForces,
HackerEarth,
CodeChef
- ▶ Personal Website

my sister is about to have a baby and my brother showed up to the hospital in a suit because "first impressions matter"



True, that

RESUME

- ▶ NO TYPOS EVER
- ▶ List Relevant Experiences
- ▶ List major achievements
- ▶ NO BLUFFING
- ▶ Formatting Matters

When you completely lie on your resume and still get the job:



Karma is always around

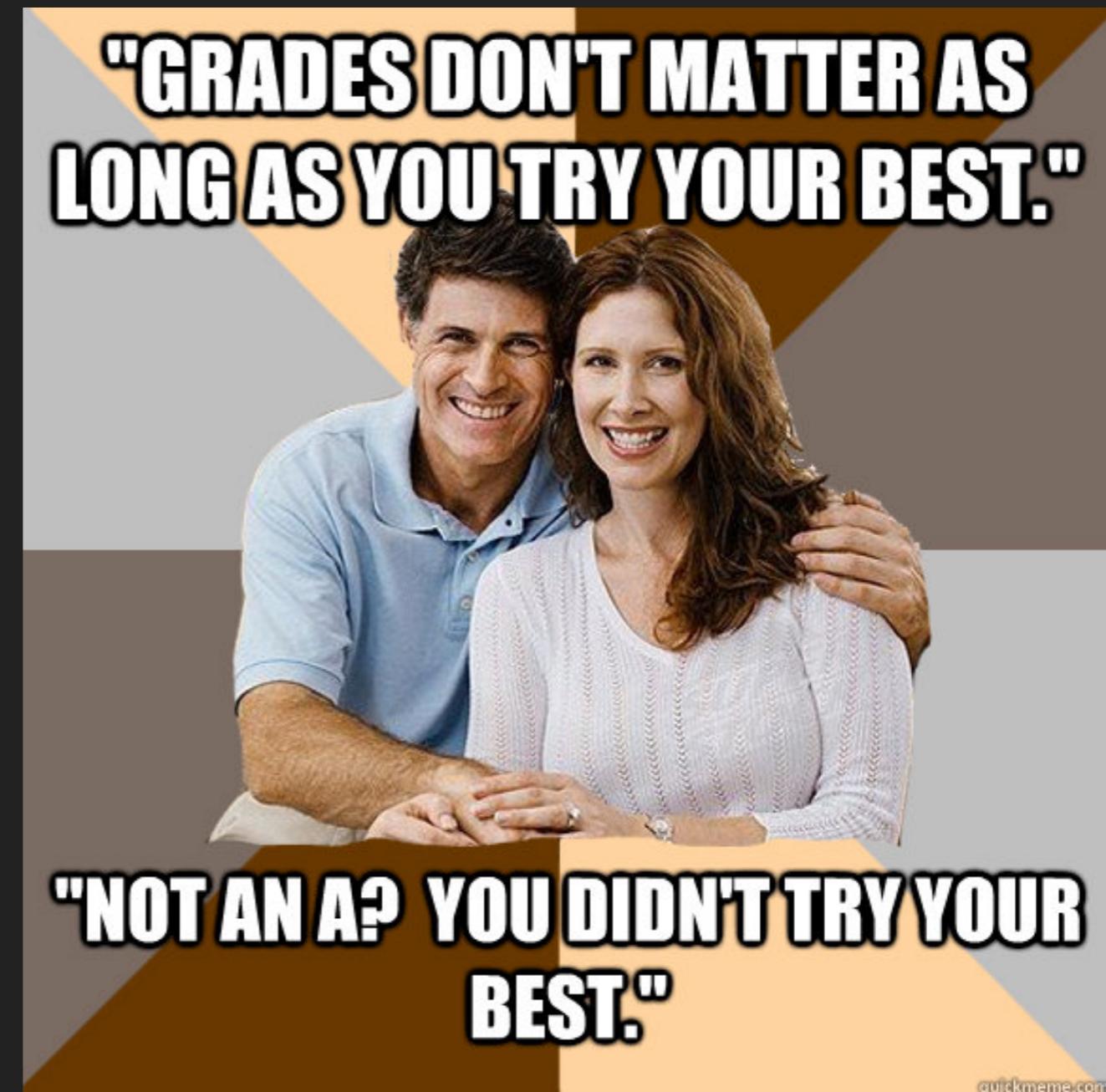
Narcissist Diaries

CASE STUDY

HOW MANY PEOPLE KNEW WHAT NARCISSIST MEANS?

JOURNEY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE - YEAR 1

- ▶ Barely got into CS
- ▶ Cultural Activities
- ▶ Literary Events
- ▶ Treasure Hunts
- ▶ No Tuitions
- ▶ GPA

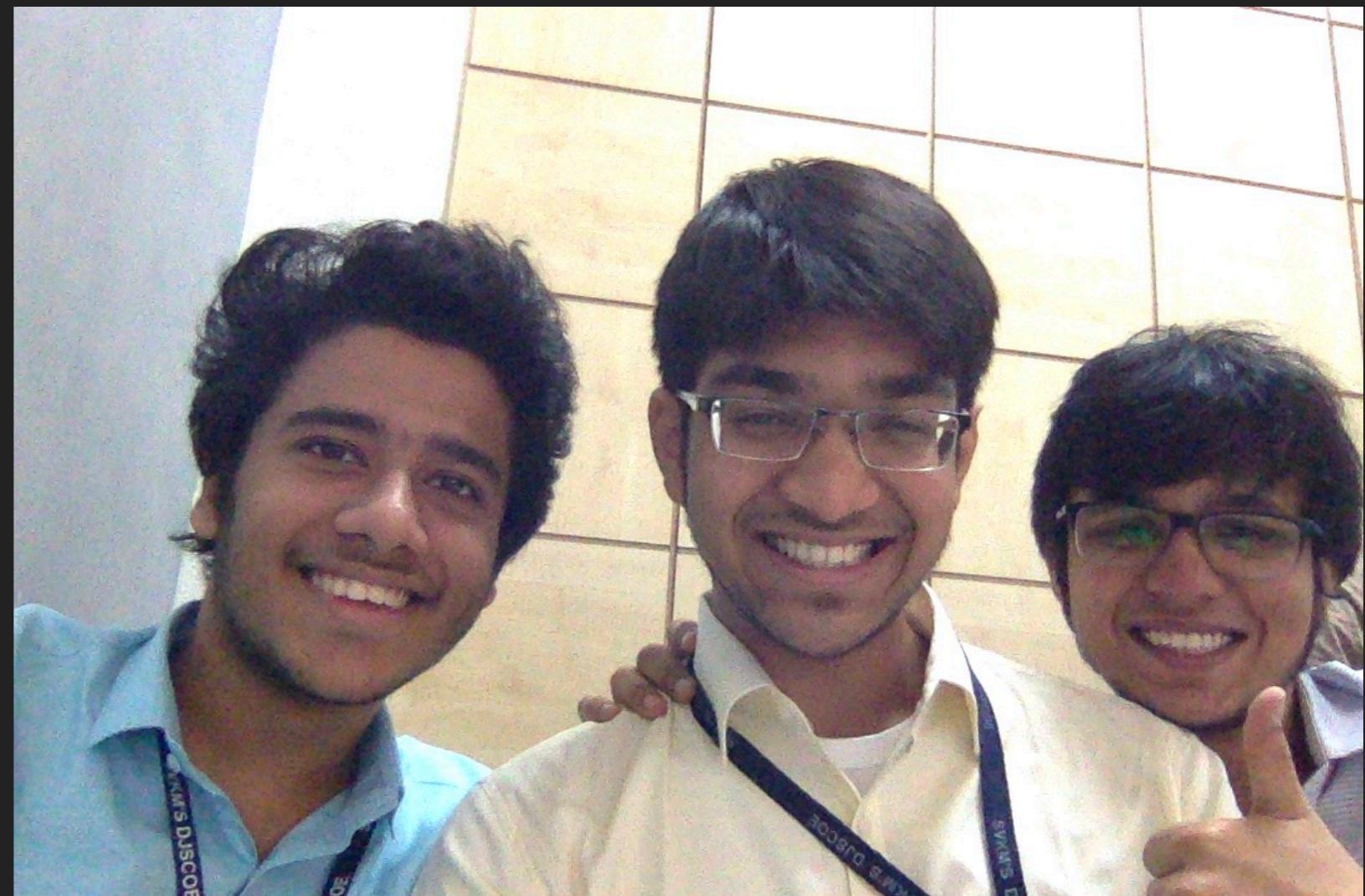


Indian Tiger Parents can sometimes be right...

FYI IT MEANS SOMEONE WHO IS FULL OF THEMSELVES

JOURNEY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE - YEAR 2

- ▶ Started exploring Computer Science
- ▶ Freelance Web Development Team
- ▶ MSR internship (IIT Bombay)
- ▶ Hackathons
- ▶ GPA



The year I got addicted to Cutting Chai

JOURNEY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE - YEAR 2 TO 3

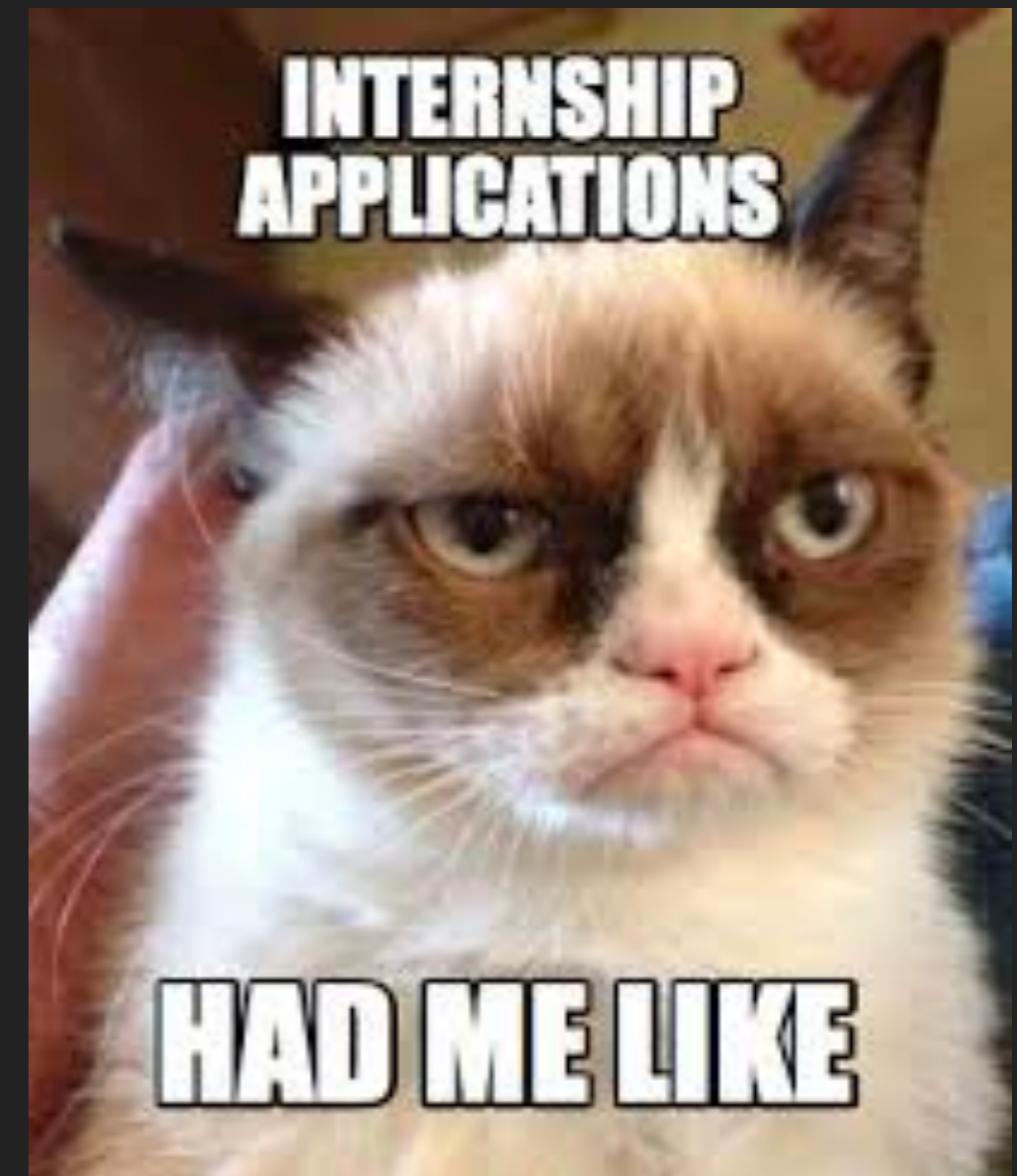
- ▶ ACM Infotech co-Head
- ▶ DJ Literary Society Vice-Chairperson
- ▶ Hackathons (finally started performing well)
- ▶ CC Developers
- ▶ Falkonry Software Solutions



The years I sacrificed sleep for 'profile-building'

JOURNEY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE - YEAR 3

- ▶ Smokescreen Technologies internship
- ▶ Applications to international internships
- ▶ Stanford Summer Research
- ▶ CERN Openlab Internship
- ▶ IAS Summer Scholar



The year I got addicted to

CERN OPENLAB INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- ▶ Anomaly Detection in Database Connections
- ▶ Openstack infrastructure, VMs, Physics Workshops
- ▶ Machine Learning, Python
- ▶ Cultural Diversity



CERN? That place, you know, with that collider...

Almost there..

SUMMARY

INTERNSHIPS

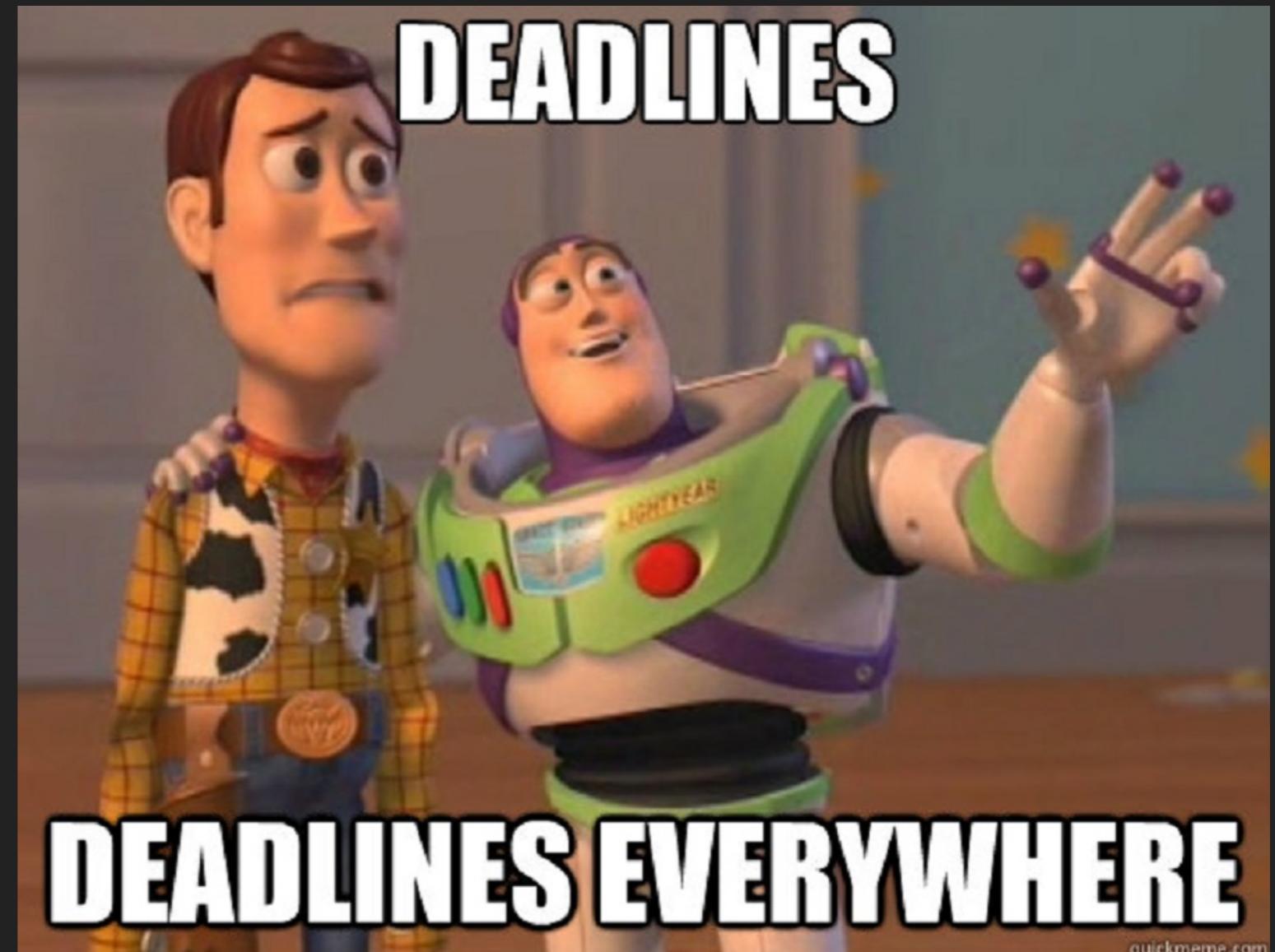
- ▶ Life-changing learning experiences
- ▶ Read the job description carefully
- ▶ Creative writing also has its limitations
- ▶ Present the Real You



Remember, it never hurts to try

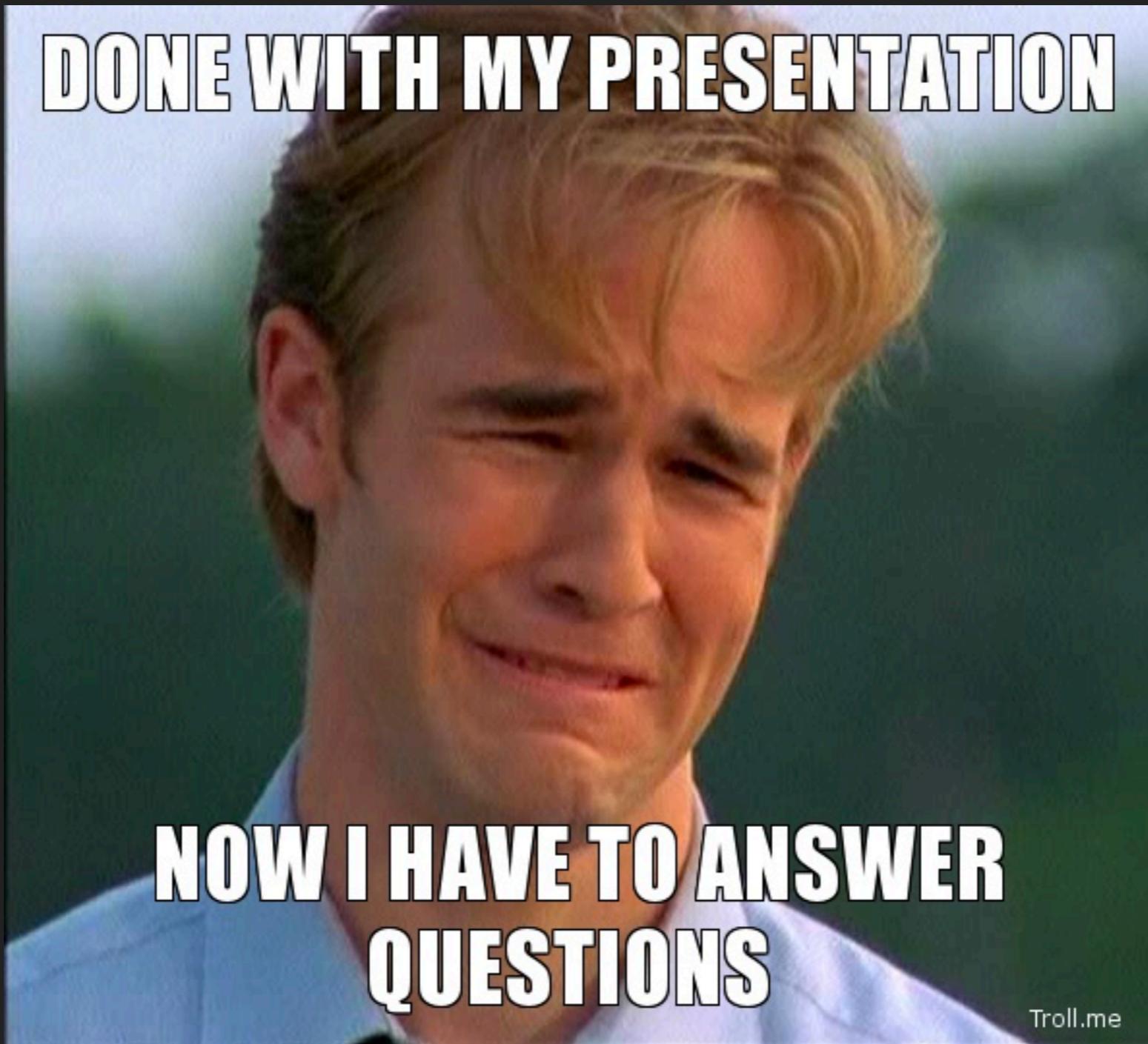
RESOURCES

- ▶ Internship Listings
- ▶ LinkedIn Jobs
- ▶ Careers Pages
- ▶ Program Announcements
- ▶ Professors' Web Pages
- ▶ LinkedIn Messaging



This is actually the most important slide

QUESTIONS



Just Kidding, ask away!