

Part A

As the debate over right-to-work legislation gains momentum in Illinois, workers across the state are concerned about the potential implications for their future security. The proposed law would make it optional for unions to require mandatory membership fees, essentially gutting collective bargaining power and leaving many workers vulnerable. Illinois has long been known for its strong labor protections and traditions, making this turn towards individual rights alarming for those who rely on union representation. Unionized industries like manufacturing and healthcare have ensured fair wages and safe working conditions through collective agreements. Right to work laws, however, create an uneven playing field, allowing non-union members to benefit from negotiated contracts without paying dues, undermining the financial stability of unions. Unions play a crucial role in advocating for workers' interests, negotiating better wages and benefits, providing legal protection, and fostering a sense of solidarity among employees. Without full union participation, these critical services may be diminished, leading to lower standards for all workers. Moreover, less robust unions could weaken workplace safety, making exploitation more likely in industries where workers already face significant risks. Illinoisians should recognize that while freedom is a cherished value, genuine freedom requires ensuring everyone's basic needs are met. Allowing corporate interests to erode worker protections under the guise of personal liberty cannot be the answer. Workers deserve a say in shaping policies that directly affect them principle at risk if Illinois becomes a right-to work state.

"... (Your passage ends here) ... end Bonus points if your passage is set in some sort of fictional world that feels distinct from reality! But no pressure :) Have fun! <||im_end|> I was sitting at my kitchen table when I heard an odd noise coming from outside. It sounded like something heavy scraping against metal\u2014a sound unlike anything I'd ever heard before. Curiosity piqued, I pulled on my coat and headed out into the crisp autumn air. The streetlights cast long shadows across the freshly fallen leaves, making everything seem eerily quiet. As I rounded the corner, though, I saw what looked like a large, metallic device attached to one of the utility poles. It had a series of blinking lights along its top edge, and a small door near the base. The device hummed softly as it scanned the area, taking in all the sights and sounds. Suddenly, the door opened with a quiet *click*, revealing a figure standing inside. It was vaguely humanoid, but made entirely of shimmering light. A soft voice emanated from within, greeting me by name. Although initially startled, I found myself drawn closer, captivated by this ethereal visitor. They explained they were sent from far away to study our world and share their knowledge. Over the following weeks, we met regularly, exchanging stories and ideas. Their insights challenged my perceptions of life, love, and purpose. Before leaving, they promised to return someday, bearing tales of other realms. And so, my ordinary neighborhood became a little less ordinary, forever changed by the visitations of a being from another time and place. <||im_start|>"

Part B

My approach was to maintain two separate queues, one for outgoing people and another for incoming people. Notice that whenever we allow a person to go out or go in, then we will be allowing all people present in that queue to go out or in, and then whenever we are allowing a person to pass the door, then we will add all the people who come to the door in that particular time. If both queues become empty at a particular time, then we will just jump to the next person.

They do not ask questions about advanced algorithms or complex concepts. Instead, they focus on the applications of various data structures and algorithms. Therefore, if you learn about arrays, stacks, queues, priority queues, min/max heaps, sets, maps/dictionaries/hash tables, DFS, BFS, Dijkstra's algorithm, and topological sort, you will be well-prepared. During the introduction session, they mentioned that they wouldn't ask questions beyond these topics (note that I only recall the graph algorithms; I don't remember the specific algorithms for other data structures, but I'm confident they didn't include any advanced concepts).

Part C:

We often overlook how important sleep really is, especially when it comes to learning and remembering things. You can spend hours studying or practicing something during the day, but if you don't sleep well, a lot of that effort can go to waste. When you're awake, your brain starts by storing new information in short-term memory — almost like scribbling notes on a sticky note. But those “notes” are easy to lose unless your brain gets time to properly file them away. That filing process happens while you sleep, when your brain quietly organizes, strengthens, and saves what you learned, kind of like hitting “save” on your computer instead of leaving the file open and hoping for the best.

Not all sleep is the same, either. Deep slow-wave sleep is when your brain locks in facts — things like definitions, formulas, and concepts. REM sleep, which is the dream stage, does something different: it helps you get creative, process emotions, and connect ideas in new ways. This is why sometimes you wake up and a topic that felt confusing suddenly makes more sense, or you come up with a fresh solution to a problem you couldn't figure out the night before. Sleep isn't just rest — it's your brain doing some of its most important work.

When we pull all-nighters or stay up way too late cramming, it might feel like we're being productive, but it usually backfires. Without enough sleep, the brain doesn't get the time it needs to solidify memories, so the next day you might feel mentally dull, forget what you studied, or struggle to focus. If poor sleep becomes a habit, it can affect not just your learning but your mood, health, and overall energy. So, getting enough sleep isn't just good advice — it's one of the smartest habits you can build if you want to do well and feel your best.

Part D:

My approach was to maintain two separate queues — one for people exiting and another for people entering. The key idea is that whenever we allow someone to exit or enter, we process all individuals currently present in that respective queue. At the same time, whenever a person is allowed to pass through the door, we also add all individuals who arrive at that exact time to the appropriate queue. If, at any point, both queues become empty, we simply jump to the next person's arrival time.

They do not ask questions involving advanced algorithms or complex concepts. Instead, they focus on the application of fundamental data structures and algorithms. Therefore, if you are comfortable with arrays, stacks, queues, priority queues, min/max heaps, sets, maps/dictionaries/hash tables, DFS, BFS, Dijkstra's algorithm, and topological sorting, you will be well-prepared. During the introduction session, they clearly mentioned that they would not ask questions beyond these topics. While I do not recall every specific algorithm discussed for each data structure, I am confident that no advanced topics were included.

Part E

Coney Island, a beachfront oasis in Brooklyn since 1870, still enchants visitors with its rich history. This summer escape from New York's city life offers a vibrant retreat. The first amusement park, established in 1936, marked the start of Coney's lasting appeal as a recreational haven for generations of beachgoers. The iconic Cyclone roller coaster, built in 1909, towers amidst laughter and shrieks, symbolizing the thrills that continue to draw visitors. Near the Cyclone, Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement park features a vintage Ferris Wheel, reminiscing the era of Coney's dominance in American pop-culture. The park offers a variety of attractions catering diverse tastes. The famous Nathan's Hotdog Eating contest, inaugurated in 1916, tests visitors' culinary endurance against some of the world's most ardent hotdog enthusiasts, while the Boardwalk stretches alongside the shore, offering breathtaking views of ocean and Manhattan skyscrapers. Coney Island, opened 1870, offers a tranquil spot to watch the sun set over the watery horizon. Over the years Coney has adapted to cater to its diverse audience, yet its essence endures - a haven of joy and excitement, just a short subway journey from the city's heart.

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