Goal: brainstorm talking points to answer the common interview question "Tell me about yourself."

Technical topics I'm interested in (app development, user experience, computer architecture, machine learning):

- Accessibility – making websites more screen reader friendly, making sure captions are included for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, choosing visual design that has sufficient contrast and font size, minimizing unpleasant/unsolicited sensory stimulation
- Web development – I have a lot of fun making websites look and feel pretty, but I also enjoy the simplicity and process of improving back-end code, setting up APIs, and managing databases
- Database design – there's something fun about wrangling tables and tables of data elegantly. Making order out of chaos 😊
  - See also: information science. I interned for the archives at my university library for several months and I LOVED making rare, fragile documents accessible to anyone with an internet connection. I love making information easier to access and leveling the playing field for researchers who don't physically live near the library.
- Human-computer interaction (HCI) – I'm not super studied in this area yet, but I'm ultimately interested in computer science because I believe computers should be built to support the activities that humans do, and I want to be in a field that makes someone's life easier/better. Plus, it involves a lot of interdisciplinary collaboration- psychology, sociology, social sciences play into this as well.
- Data science – Not super studied in this yet either, but this plays into my interests in math and extracting understanding from human behavior. I'd love to learn more about it should the opportunity arise.

Non technical topics I'm interested in (education, health care, finance, medical industry, government, politics)

- Education – I love tutoring people, I've been heavily influenced by teachers and professors in my life, and I'd even enjoy being a teacher myself. I think technology has the potential to increase the accessibility of education to a wider demographic of people (Youtube University, right?).
- Politics – my side hustle is being a member of the Youth Advocacy Board where I live, which values the voices of young people in changing the systems that they participate in. As a young LGBT+ person who is affected by decisions made in systems such as our local juvenile justice system, our mental health system, and foster care, I participate in a coalition of other youth to make recommendations to politicians based on our lived experiences in these systems. I'm also passionate about volunteering for organizations such as my local animal shelter. I'm a very hands-on person, and I love directly seeing the impact that I have on the community. There's nothing like reading a bill that a local politician amended based on feedback that I gave; the silence of 30 cats at the shelter napping after I've fed, watered, and cleaned every single one of their enclosures; or hearing someone say "I get it" and getting a high grade on an assignment that I helped them with.

Interesting projects I've worked on in or out of school

- Digitizing rare artifacts for Redwood National Park – I digitized probably 30-50 documents plus metadata for access on a special website built for the Redwood National Park in honor of their 50th anniversary, as well as curating digital exhibits to tell the story of the activists, loggers, and politicians involved in the establishment of the Redwood National Park.
- Creating metadata for the Dept of the Interior – at that job, I also created metadata for hundreds (on the order of 600 – 700) of documents in the Mary Ann Madej Collection in the Interior Collections Management System (ICMS) used by the US Department of the Interior.
- Autograder – I took on a full stack web dev role helping one of my professors with his automated grading platform. I worked with my professor and a colleague to create a website that would allow students to log in with their GitHub account, upload their code for a class assignment, run it against given test cases, and submit it. The goal of this website was to make the grading process more transparent to students so that they could get a general idea of how well they'd do on an assignment before they actually turned it in. This is based on my professor's belief that the grading process should be more transparent and approachable to students, such that it doesn't create a power imbalance that makes the professor the final arbiter of someone's passing grade. This project required me to learn Javascript and get familiar with Node.js, React, and Docker.

Why I'm excited about the role I'm interviewing for

Consider the following:

- What made me apply for this role? What about it caught my eye?
- What do I hope to learn from this role?

Why I think I'm a good fit for a role I'm interviewing for

Consider the following:

- What temperament and assets/soft skills do I bring to a team?
- What skills do I have that make me a good fit for the role?
- Where/ how do I see myself contributing to the organization I'm interviewing for?

Spiel should be ~3 minutes overall- practice and time yourself. You got this 😊