

Cover Letter

Each project I have worked on has taught me lessons. I believe that the traits which I value most in myself are self-reflection, communication, and management, and I believe that these skills make me stand out most as a professional, above any specific technical skills. I would like to justify why I value each of these traits, and give some anecdotes of my experience in doing so.

Self-reflection has brought about so much of my personal growth. I use self-reflection in the form of writing up regular reviews and learning from each of my mistakes and experiences, good and bad, and spotting trends in my performance. This was something I picked up and honed as a development intern at JPMorgan Chase, and this *learning how to learn* was perhaps my biggest lesson from my time there. As a result of weekly reflection, planning, and record keeping, I was able to take on a large amount of responsibility and complexity – organizing and chairing meetings with clients, my team, and supervisors, and ultimately delivering a batch to production. Having self-awareness of my own strengths and weaknesses, and how to improve on these, has remained invaluable to me. Moreover, I am certain that self-reflection will allow me to play to my strengths, learn from my mistakes, and make sustained growth throughout my future employment.

In every project I have been on, the project's success can be attributed in great part to the group's successful communication. I have learned the value of communicating effectively and concisely, in particular from my time as president of my team in the International Space Settlement Design Competition (ISSDC). Presiding over a team of 50, I saw that setting clear objectives for each team, effective organizational structure, and exchanging ideas were the decisive factors of the competition, and that every group's final products were a product of these factors. Through this I have come to greatly value open and clear communication with my coworkers and clients.

How to manage teams, and myself, has been a key factor in all the projects I have worked on. I feel that understanding the role of each person and team inside an organization will make teams efficient and cooperative when these are used to structure the project and organization. On top of using people for their strengths, I believe aligning incentives personal and group incentives is decisive for projects. I found that my team within JPMorgan showed what the right management and incentives can do to maximize team cohesion and efficiency. I admired how thoroughly my team had adopted agile techniques, the short-and-sweet approach to meetings, and a desire to shine as individuals and in our team's final product, which contrasted to many of my less efficient experiences in teams. Above all, the project leader's experience and direction felt non-egotistical, well-informed, and thoughtful, as I felt was best.

My philosophy of software engineering has grown to be treating code with certain values in mind. To me, good software works, with assurance that it does what it is expected to, is clear, and is flexible. Meanwhile, I place a great personal value on high performance code, which behaves exactly as expected, and is well optimized for the environment it will run in. These values lead me to believe that I would be well suited to be a `jjob_name` at Jane Street.

Overall, I feel that the `jcompany_culture` and `jjob_comment` mean that I will thrive in this position. I feel that the role plays to my strengths in self-reflection, communication, and management, as well as to my strengths as a software developer.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,

Andrew J. Young