

Some ways that I think that I could prepare for an interview is end to make myself stand out is to have prepared questions, practice my elevator speech, and highlight the key points that make me different and desirable as a hiring candidate. I have already mentioned several times throughout my career homework that I am hardworking and detail-oriented and I think these are two very desirable things for employers. I think my personality is also something that can help me to stand out. I'm going to continue to practice interview questions, and perhaps have a couple experiences in my back pocket for each scenario to bring up. I know something that I should not talk about is past negative work experiences.

I've been attending the Whiteboard Wednesdays and have been able to learn more from my peers on these whiteboard challenges. This last Wednesday Jake gave us his Santa and building floors problem. Scott was the brave soul that volunteered to solve it. He did it very well and even talks while he was riding his coat and his thought process through it. Something that I have been nervous about when it comes to the technical interviews, or these whiteboard challenges, is I feel I am very weak in them and are unable to efficiently solve them. I know I need to practice fees the most just on my own in not by somebody else. I get kind of overwhelmed with the problems and I don't see them in code Initially. I think I'm good at admitting when I don't know something, but I think I need to know a little bit more in order to be successful interviewee.

5 questions I would like to ask an employer at the end of an interview:

- What made you decide to work for this company and what has kept you here?
- How would you describe the overall company culture?
- How are performance evaluations executed?
- How many females are on or have been on the developing team and how would they describe their experience?
- Is there anything that I have said or is in my resume that you are concerned with?
- –What would be your advice for someone interviewing for this company? ;)

Prepped STAR interview Questions

1. Talk about a time when you had to work closely with someone whose personality was very different from yours.
 - a. I was a volunteer missionary and had to work with this individual 24/7 and always had to be in close proximity of each other. Their personality was very negative and overly awkward and kind of rude. I knew that we had to work together if we were going to get any work done, so I swallowed the part of me that just wanted to cringe and walk away, and instead tried to focus on the positive in the individual. If I perhaps wanted to do something, I had to convince them it was their idea and give them credit for the idea.
2. Give me an example of a time you faced a conflict while working on a team. How did you handle that?

- a. One time while working with a group of Developers, I realize that we were not progressing and on pace with our project as we should be with the deadline soon approaching, we all started to become very stressed. I took a step back from the situation to gain perspective. Why were we so behind? It was then that I realized that we had stopped communicating what we were doing with our code. The lack of communication lead to us falling behind. As soon as I made this realization I told my team members that we had to change tactics, what we were doing was not working and we needed to do something different. I suggested we have one person on the keyboard and have the other people guid the typer. Because of a conflict between a couple of the other developers, I offered to be first “on keyboard” typing the code to attempt to restore the peace. In the end, peace was made and we got our project up and running by the deadline. I learned that when working on a team it is important to constantly be communicating.
3. Describe a time when you had to interact with a difficult client. What was the solution, and how did you handle it?
 - a. Back when I was working as a Server in a retirement home, there was this resident who was a diabetic. The other servers would groan when they realized they were assigned to help her because she was always so demanding. I never felt the same pain they did when serving her. She would always as for real strawberry icecream. I would have to repeatedly explain to her how all I could give her was the sugar free icecream because other wise I would get in big trouble. I would have the same conversation about 3 times in the same night and eventually she would eventually understand and stop asking and eat her sugar free strawberry icecream.
 - b. While I was a customer service representative a customer asked where their package was. They already sounded very agitated and I had to explain to them that the post office all over the country was experiencing delays and assured them that we were doing all that we could to ensure the package gets delivered to them. We are sorry about the delay, but it is out of our control at this time. The customer continued to ramble and complain about the situation but eventually understood that there was literally nothing we could do to make their package come faster.
4. Tell me about a time you failed. How did you deal with the situation?
 - a. Back in Jan of 2020 I was pursuing a college degree in Mechanical Engineering full-time while working with a precious metals company part-time. Once COVID came in full swing, I had to start working full time which resulted in me becoming a student part-time. The pressures of the change began to build and I saw my grades beginning to slip. I realized at this time there was no way I was going to pass all of my college classes. So I prioritized the ones that I felt I could still pass in. At first I aim to pass 3 of the 5 classes, but then quickly realized that still wasn't an attainable goal with the current crisis. So, I adjusted my goal to put all the energy I had left into passing 2 classes. And in the end I passed the two classes and failed the other 3. Throughout it all I knew I could not be hard on

myself, I gave myself grace throughout the experience so that I could be as successful as possible given the circumstances.

5. Tell me about a time you had to be very strategic in order to me all of your top priorities.
 - a. Back when I was working for a precious metals dealer, We often have the joke that everything is priority. So each day I would assess the overall load that we had to do. Then I would figured out the weight of each task. I would then have one of us start the biggest project while the other two focus on getting the other smaller tasks accomplished until we could all meet in the middle with the medium weighted tasks. We would also have to make these assessments about every 2 hours to make sure we were on track and there were no new projects. This all helped me to always keep the bigger picture in mind. Just because you could all do something together very quickly doesn't mean you should. Every part of the machine must turn in order to get the whole thing to work.