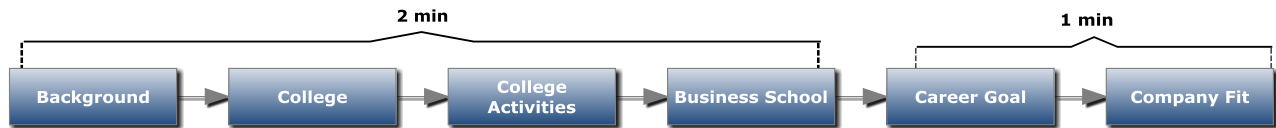


RCS Quick Tips: Developing Your Odyssey

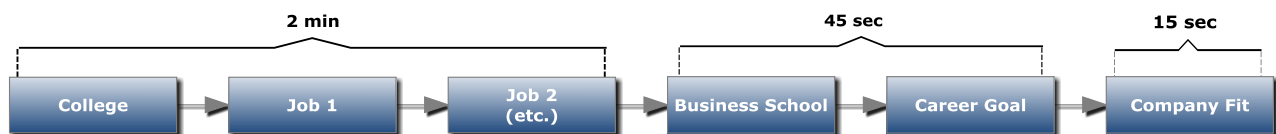
The Odyssey is your verbal response to the statements, “Tell me about yourself,” or, “Walk me through your resume.” It is a short (3 minute) story you can use in one-on-one networking settings, informational interviews, and job interviews. It is critical to prepare and practice this ahead of time to (1) identify the requirements and desired skills for the role, (2) understand your story inside-out, (3) frame your personal and professional experiences in a way that highlights a fit between your skills and the job requirements, and (4) confidently articulate your story to the people you meet during your job search.

Elements of Your Odyssey

- Less experienced students (BBA, MAcc)



- Experienced students (MBA, MSCM, PTMBA)



Telling Your Odyssey

- Briefly discuss highlights of each experience in chronological order
- Explain what motivated you to transition to next position (be constructive)
- Customize odyssey content to your audience, strategically conferring key skills that fit your career target
- Build momentum as story progresses to career goal and company fit
 - ~ Move from general to specific, eventually explaining why you are sitting in front of this person
 - ~ When informational interviewing, company fit may be modified to industry fit
 - ~ When discussing company fit, try not to use generic facts about the company that every other candidate will know as well; try to incorporate unique things you may have learned through informational interviews, casual conversations with current employees or Ross alumni, or through research you’ve done. Show that you’ve done your due diligence to understand what the company is truly like.
- Odyssey may utilize storytelling techniques of theme, foreshadowing
 - ~ Example: (Beginning) “Growing up, I often visited my uncle at his assembly plant. I observed the workers fix the bottlenecks in the process ... (ending) and though I didn’t initially realize the impact of my time at the assembly plant, it truly ignited my interest in operations”
- It’s okay to sound excited and eager to interview with this company; this enthusiasm can be incorporated most naturally in the company fit portion of your Odyssey. You want every company to feel like they are your first choice company and that you would be thrilled to intern/work there.

Odyssey Tips

- In preparation, outline your key points (don’t create a script or you’ll sound over rehearsed)
- Keep your story flexible to the context of your conversation (audience, time constraints, setting)
- Practice and critique with small groups of students
- Attend an RCS Mock Interview Session

Final Tip: Additional networking and interview preparation guidance, such as the *RCS Guide to Career Networking* and the *RCS Guide to Interview Preparation*, can be found in **Network** and **Interview** of the Career Section of our website.