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Career Services Assignment 4 – Soft Skill Interview Prep

Instructions: Find a job post online for a role and company you would like to apply for. Answer the following questions as if you were being interviewed for the job. Research the STAR method of answering behavioral interview questions and where applicable, utilize the STAR method in answering the below questions.

How did you hear about this position? (Make sure you remember where you heard about the role so it doesn't look like you are just applying randomly to every position possible.)

I found the job ad on the Indeed website when I was looking for a relevant job.

What do you know about the company? (Research the company, website, products/services, and reviews. Talk about good reviews that make you want to join.)

Reynolds and Reynolds is an information technology company that develops relevant software and forms for the automotive industry. The company provides training and education services for its employees, which makes it an outstanding company. I found out that the company's management cares about its employees, and it's a fast-paced environment which I like about it. Another positive point about this company that I found out is their emphasis on the social dynamics of the groups. Finally, I noticed that the company is very active in taking part in various community events such as "making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk" or fun runs to support non-profit organizations.

Why do you want this job? (Be very specific. Talk about what appeals to you about the role but focus more on the value you'll add to the team and company rather than what the company will do for you.)

I am excited about this job opportunity with Reynolds and Reynolds because of the company's focus on creating innovative and high-quality software solutions. As a creative and driven individual, I am drawn to the prospect of working on challenging development projects and making meaningful contributions to a winning team.

What particularly appeals to me about this role is the variety of development projects that Reynolds and Reynolds offers. With the company's focus on creating software solutions for a range of different environments, including client/server applications, browser-based applications, mobile applications, and embedded systems, I am confident that I will be able to expand my skills and experience in new and exciting ways.

Additionally, I am excited about the range of development platforms that Reynolds and Reynolds uses, including Windows, .NET, Linux, iOS, and Android. This diversity of platforms presents a great opportunity for me to further develop my technical skills and knowledge of web

development, while also making valuable contributions to the company's software development efforts.

Overall, I am confident that my front-end web development skills and experience will enable me to add significant value to the Reynolds and Reynolds team, and I am excited about the prospect of contributing to the company's ongoing success.

Why should we hire you? (Be very specific. Talk about your skills, passion, and willingness to continuously learn to be an asset.)

I believe that my skills, passion, and willingness to continuously learn make me a strong candidate for this role.

As a recent front-end bootcamp graduate, I have developed a strong foundation in front-end development skills such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, as well as frameworks like React and Vue. I have also worked on several projects, both independently and as part of a team, which has given me hands-on experience in building responsive and user-friendly web applications.

In addition to my technical skills, I am also a PhD candidate in English, which has allowed me to hone my critical thinking and analytical skills. I believe that these skills are highly transferable to software development, as they enable me to approach problems from a creative and thoughtful perspective, and to communicate effectively with team members and stakeholders.

Furthermore, I am highly passionate about software development and am always looking for new ways to learn and grow in this field. I am an avid reader of industry blogs and forums, and I am constantly seeking out new resources and tutorials to further develop my skills. I believe that my passion for this field, combined with my strong work ethic and ability to work collaboratively, would make me a valuable asset to any team.

Overall, I believe that my technical skills, critical thinking abilities, passion for software development, and commitment to continuous learning make me an excellent fit for this role, and I am excited about the prospect of contributing to your team's success.

What is your greatest professional achievement? (STAR)

Situation: As a Graduate Teaching Assistant and Instructor of Writing and Composition courses at Idaho State University, I was responsible for leading undergraduate students in developing their writing skills, and helping them to become more effective communicators.

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Task: One of my primary responsibilities was to design and implement online learning modules, utilize web-based resources, and create interactive digital assignments to enhance the learning experience for my students.

Action: To accomplish this task, I collaborated with other instructors and professors to identify the most effective tools and technologies to use in the online learning modules. I also conducted extensive research to ensure that the digital assignments were aligned with the learning objectives and could effectively measure student learning outcomes. Furthermore, I worked closely with the IT department to ensure that the online platforms and resources were secure, accessible, and user-friendly for students. I also facilitated virtual discussions and provided timely feedback to students on their assignments.

Result: Through my efforts, I was able to create engaging and interactive online learning modules that helped students develop their writing and communication skills. My use of technology also increased student engagement and motivation and allowed for greater flexibility and accessibility in the learning process. Moreover, my experience in utilizing online teaching and technology has also developed my proficiency in various programming languages, frameworks, and tools, such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. These skills will enable me to develop and maintain robust, scalable, and high-performance web applications that can effectively leverage the latest technologies and platforms.

Describe a difficult work situation and how you overcame it. (STAR. Never speak negatively about anyone else or any companies. Perhaps talk about change you experiences, as change is always difficult to overcome.)

Situation: As an online instructor of composition, I was faced with the challenge of ensuring that my students were engaged and motivated in an online learning environment. It was difficult to create an interactive and personalized learning experience for each student, especially since I was not able to interact with them face-to-face.

Task: One of my primary responsibilities was to facilitate virtual discussions, provide timely feedback on assignments, and create online learning modules that effectively conveyed course content.

Action: To overcome this situation, I implemented several strategies. First, I made sure to communicate with my students regularly and create a welcoming online environment where they felt comfortable asking questions and sharing their ideas.

Next, I created interactive digital assignments that allowed students to apply what they had learned in a practical and engaging way. I also provided detailed feedback on their assignments

to help them improve their writing and critical thinking skills. Additionally, I created online learning modules that included a variety of multimedia resources such as videos, podcasts, and interactive games to keep students engaged and motivated.

Result: Through my efforts, I was able to create an online learning experience that was engaging, interactive, and effective in helping my students develop their writing and communication skills. The students reported high levels of satisfaction with the course, and the course completion rates improved significantly. Moreover, this experience taught me the importance of being flexible and adaptable in online teaching. I learned to use technology creatively to create an engaging learning experience that could meet the needs of diverse learners. These skills will be valuable in any future roles where I need to design and deliver effective online learning experiences.

What are your goals for the future? (Make sure you answer in a time bound manner and talk about how you are looking to learn as much as possible in your field.)

My primary goal for the future is to continue developing my skills and knowledge in the field of web development. In the short term, I aim to gain more experience by working on a variety of projects and collaborating with other professionals in the field.

In the next 2-3 years, I would like to take on more challenging projects and develop expertise in new technologies and frameworks. I also plan to stay up-to-date with the latest trends and best practices in web development by attending conferences, workshops, and online courses.

In the long term, I aspire to take on leadership roles in web development projects and mentor other developers. I would also like to contribute to the field by publishing articles and giving talks at conferences.

Overall, my goal is to become a well-rounded and skilled web developer who is able to tackle complex problems and create innovative solutions. I am committed to continuous learning and growth in this field, and I believe that with hard work and dedication, I can achieve my goals and make valuable contributions to the industry.

Why are you leaving your last job? (Don't say anything negative. Mention growth, changing industries, etc.)

As an English teacher, I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with my previous employer and to have gained valuable experience in the field of education. However, I am now looking to explore new opportunities and take on new challenges in my career.

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One of the main reasons for my decision to leave my previous job is my desire for professional growth and development. I feel that I have reached a point where I need to expand my horizons and explore new areas of interest, such as web development.

Additionally, I am seeking to change industries in order to broaden my skillset and gain experience in a new field. While I have enjoyed teaching English, I am excited to pursue a career in a field that is more closely aligned with my interests and career aspirations.

In summary, I am leaving my previous job on positive terms and with a focus on personal and professional growth. I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences that I gained as an English teacher, and I am looking forward to applying the skills and knowledge I acquired in a new industry.

What is your salary expectation?

$65,000 a year.