Task 5
Model Answer – Video 2
Video Transcript

My name is Kelly Koltun. My pronouns are she/her.

I'm a recruiting lead with BCG, focusing on our campus, recruiting efforts for full time and internship data scientist roles.

The role of a technical interview is to help a potential employer decipher whether or not a candidate has the basic toolkit to do the day to day job.

The basic toolkit is a combination of your actual technical knowledge, such as Python and other coding languages, your ability to efficiently think through business problems, and finally your ability to effectively communicate those insights to your interviewer.

While technical interviews weigh rather heavily in the final hiring decision, there are a number of other factors we consider, such as your background and education, any leadership positions you've held in school or your community, prior work experience, etc.

Technical interviews are not about finding a perfect solution to the problem.

There's no definitive right or wrong answer.

Rather, your interviewer is looking to understand your thought process and how you arrived at your answer.

And if you can support your final solution with sound logic and reasoning, then you're already 90% of the way there.

Think of it as a high school math test, or even if you got the final answer wrong, you'll receive partial credit for showing your work.

Your interviewer is also looking for you to stay curious if you're headed down the wrong path of a technical interview, they will generally try to redirect you back on the right path and are hoping you remain engaged, taking the redirection in stride and not becoming visibly defeated.

You're both on the same team and your interviewer wants you to do well. During the technical case interview the best questions to ask are probing and clarifying questions.

This lets your interviewer know that you're engaged, curious and fully thinking through the problem at hand.

It also ensures that you fully understand what the interviewer is asking of you, which reduces the chance of any miscommunications down the line.

For example, if the technical case prompt starts off by vaguely talking about supply chain issues in the US automotive industry, you can ask your interviewer something to the effect of, "I understand our automotive client is dealing with supply chain issues in the US, from my understanding, those problems currently stem from x-y-z. Does that sound correct to you or are there other factors you should be taking into account?"

One last piece of advice in regards to technical interviews would be to stay curious and have fun.

It might sound like cliched advice, but interviewers can sense if you're actually enjoying the technical case interview and if you are enjoying it, it's a great indication to them that you've actually enjoyed doing the day to day job.

Thank you for participating in the Girls Who Code technical interview prep in collaboration with BCG.

We hope you found these sessions helpful and I hope to see you as a candidate for BCG in the future.