Please answer the following questions. Don't worry about spending more than an hour (but doesn't have to be that long!) on the exercise, but please write enough to present a meaningful example of your written communication.

1. Tell me about something you've built that you're proud of.

When I was at HackNY this year, I knew that I wanted to build a project that I cared about. The idea that I came up with was called Insighttweets. This was a project that grabbed location-based tweets and applied different sentiment analysis algorithms from the IBM Watson API to generate statistics on the average personality of a person who tweets about any given topic in any given city. My team won the IBM prize for this hack, which was an amazing experience to have gotten through the Hackathon that way. This project was especially rewarding because I started with only an idea. I then learned nodeJS, with which I had very little experience, to make an awesome project and ultimately win a prize.

2. What's your favorite technology and why?

The Python language has such well-written libraries and packages. Python has proven over the years to be one of the most flexible programming languages, as has a wide range of uses, from high-level web applications to serializing electrical signals to pins on an arduino. Python is one of the first languages taught to new programmers because it is clear, concise, and can do whatever you can think of.

3. How do you feel about public speaking? What was your favorite public speaking experience? Least favorite?

Public speaking in general can be a really powerful tool. It allows you to convey messages to large groups of people in the way that matters the most, speaking directly at your audience in the exact way you want your message to be shared. Emotions such as passion or sadness can be detected in your voice depending on what you talk about.

My favorite experience speaking in public was at a faculty meeting at my high school. I was convincing my school faculty that it was important to have a word wall at my school as we were looking for ideas to make the poetry of Pablo Neruda relatable to the average high school student. I was given a huge round of applause and was complimented on my public speaking by every teacher there that knew me.

My least favorite public speaking experience was for an in-class presentation of our final project in my Databases course. It was an assignment I had dedicated a lot of time into building and presenting. I was excited going into it, but after seeing the other

presentations, and my own graders displaying a lack of interest, the entire thing felt fake. I delivered my presentation, but it felt like the people who were there only came out of obligation.

4. What's your funniest hackathon story?

I was having a strange issue at HackHers at Rutgers. There was some Python code that used an unofficial Python Twitter module I was using to download tweets. One second it worked just fine, I run it again to make sure and it errors out because of some error in the module. I had tried different things for about two hours. One of my teammates came running down the stairs shouting he found a python mentor. On the way he actually fell down the stairs. Thankfully he was fine, but whatever distraction he had caused must have been a good one, as I looked back at my laptop and my code worked! It was so outrageous. Repeating the stairs experiment did not prove fruitful to future errors, however.

5. Tell me about a time you went above and beyond your normal responsibilities?

During the organization of PearlHacks, a bus was sent out to go to the northeast going as far as New York City. There wasn't much information on where to wait for the bus, so I emailed the organizers and they responded by saying they didn't know a lot about the area and didn't actually have a Person of Contact for Rutgers. So I volunteered to be the Person of Contact, got everyone together on the Rutgers Facebook group and got everyone to the bus on time.

On the bus ride to North Carolina, the bus actually had broken down on the side of the highway. We ended up going to a small rest stop nearby and waited for either roadside assistance or another bus. There were numerous phone calls that needed to be made. I ended up being the guy to deal with the organizers, the bus company, the roadside assistance and explaining all of this to the entire bus itself. We ended up getting to the hackathon ten hours late.

6. What's the worst mistake you've made? How did you fix it?

My worst mistake was failing to exercise my full potential in high school. When I began college, I discovered countless opportunities that I could accomplish with a clean slate. I started trying to do and learn as much as I possibly could while I was in college. I'm very lucky to have had the chance to rectify my mistake.

7. If you wanted to create an environment where hackers can thrive, what's the first thing you would do?

The first thing to do is give them a tool like an Arduino, a Tessel, or whatever tools are there. Get them the basic working example set up on their own machines.

This is what's critical about empowering someone. If people have working code right in front of them, they are drawn to experiment. Then they start editing it, seeing what they can figure out.
Ultimately, to have hackers thrive, you need a really easy developer setup and people there who can help them build.

8. What is your process for problem solving? For yourself? For others?

Start out with a high-level goal. Like all programming problems break a problem into parts. How can we accomplish each part? Which parts are independent? Once you've identified all of these different pieces we can then begin one of those parts and work towards that solution. But breaking down what you want to accomplish into steps is critical for solving problems.

9. What sort of mentor do you want to be? What characteristics?

I want to be a mentor who has many different areas of knowledge, expertise, and skills that wants to offer time and commitment to anyone who wants to learn. A person who continues to build upon his wealth of knowledge and values consistent personal growth. Someone who displays a readiness to take a personal interest and investment in each project when mentoring.

I want to be a person that provides motivation and inspiration to attend hackathons, create meaningful applications, and explore computer programming with a demonstration of patience and positivity when encountering difficulties, and most importantly the ability to provide and receive constructive feedback when necessary while respecting and valuing the opinions of others.

10. Of your own mentors who would you want to be like and why?

One of my personal favorite mentors was the music teacher at my old high school, Dr. Kenneth Brown. He was, by far, my favorite teacher when I was in high school. He cared about all of his students and pushed them to reach their full potential. You knew that he only wanted the best for the people who were a part of his life.
I want to be a mentor who reminds people that I care, that I'll always be there for them and that they can always come to me when they need something, regardless of whether it has to do with programming.

11. How do you feel about loading docks?

Loading docks are a fantastic innovation to the industry of shipping and simplify the jobs of truck drivers, warehouse managers and of course, supply chain managers. They present a quick, efficient, and scalable solution to the problem of secure package shipping.

The conventional loading dock has a couple of really fantastic use cases. Let's start with the primary use, **loading**. You simply take your packages and throw them into the back of a truck, and drive it to where it needs to go, easy!

But let's not forget about it's other pivotal use case, **unloading**. Typically packages need to be brought in discretely to their destinations; so as to ensure that one could determine what is getting delivered, or *who* the intended recipients are. This is where the standard loading dock comes in. So you have your truck, you back it into the side of a warehouse and open up the truck. You move your packages and potential thieves are none the wiser.

12. Can you tell me about a time when you were under significant pressure and how you handled it?

This past semester, I was working five different jobs because I needed to support myself financially, as well as work a relevant software development internship before I applied for summer internships going into senior year.

I was working for about thirty hours a week, in addition to taking nineteen credits of coursework, including Graduate Operating Systems Design, Databases, and Discrete Probability Theory. Needless to say, It was a very stressful semester.

I handled it by breaking it down into individual pieces, staying up late often to finish my assignments, being very carefully organized to keep track of everything that had to get done in every facet and just trying to finish it all. I had the help and support from some fantastic people in my life to help me get through it.

13. What drives you in your personal life?

"I can never read all the books I want; I can never be all the people I want and live all the lives I want. I can never train myself in all the skills I want. And what do I want? I want to live and feel all the shades, tones, and variations of mental and physical experience possible in my life. And I am horribly limited." - Sylvia Plath

14. Of your time in the hacker community, what are you most proud of?

I finishing my hack at HackPSU. That was a very intense hackathon for me, as I had purchased a nerf gun from a local Walmart and had planned to use the Microsoft

Kinect to detect bodies and fire at them by hooking up the arduino to the gun. After the unsuspecting victim was fired at, the kinect would take a picture of them and post it to Twitter and keep a record of that tweetID on a python-flask backend. So after this person had been shot, they would have to pay bitcoins to our backend to remove the embarrassing photo. None of us had ever used any of those technologies, save for two of us who knew python-flask. I had to lead a team of my friends to keep us on task and organized and making progress while going through so many difficulties, especially the nerf gun.

In the end we didn't win anything, not a single thing. It was after I asked Swift about it afterwards that I was proud of myself. He told me that I learned, had fun, and I built something that not only worked but was completely my own idea. The fact of the matter was that he was right. I was much more satisfied with this thought than I was of anything else, and I didn't even realize it until someone put it right in front of me. I also received a free GitHub shirt during the hackathon.