Elevator Pitch Rough Draft

Hello, ("I'm Ethan and…" -if applicable, don't state name in interview)

I (currently or recently) attended/am attending codeworks and graduated their full stack web developer course. Prior to attending codeworks I have experience as an automotive technician and didn't expect myself to pursue a computer programming career path. I was inspired by family and friends working in or working towards similar positions, which led me to enroll in a software development program and dive into the vast world of coding. This year I've really immersed myself in computer programming, with learning and working on projects I've taken on in my own time as well as my continued education with codeworks. I've acquired a solid understanding of Javascript, Vue.js, and Bootstrap to code client side applications and functionality. With Codeworks I additionally learned how to create web API's with NODE.js, C# ASP.NET, MONGOOSE and MongoDb, as well as MySQL. I also participated in multiple collaborative projects with other students and was able to productively and dynamically work together with other developers to complete full stack web applications. I find the complex problem solving and fast paced learning of computer programming exhilarating and engaging, as I've completed more and more web applications I've continuously found more passion in writing code. I aspire to become a more well rounded and knowledgeable developer with my first job and hope my depth of understanding will grow exponentially as I continue my career.

5 Behavioral Questions

1. Give me an example of a time you faced a conflict while working on a team, how did you handle that?

A good example of when I had conflict on a team was when I worked on a 4 person project towards the beginning of Codeworks. We delegated one person to be the leader and make the final decision when we were divided. We were trying to complete as much of a large project as we could in a single day and we were collectively a bit stressed about completing the project. When two of my classmates were partner programming, our group leader was being more overbearing than one of my other partners would have liked, and while we were on a break they let me know it was beginning to get difficult working with them. I offered to take a turn being the one to code so they could have time to disengage from the situation before they got more frustrated. I like to think of myself as someone who is very considerate when working with other people, and I used that attribute to my advantage and remained patient to continue making progress on the application.

2. Tell me about a time you failed. How did you deal with the situation?

A time that I failed was actually in my technical interview prior to beginning at codeworks. I had just completed my first project and went in to be evaluated to join the course. They had me

answer a few whiteboard questions, and they got progressively more challenging as we went. I missed a couple of them and was overall struggling in the interview. After we concluded, the instructor let me know that I hadn't passed the interview and gave me tips to better prepare and try again. I spent the next 2 weeks practicing javascript challenges and coding daily, and felt as though I had made considerable progress. It was incredibly disappointing to get turned down to even begin the class, and I used those feelings as motivation to try again and make progress in my coding abilities. When I went in for a second technical interview, I was given even more challenging questions yet I aced the interview and was able to begin the course at the next start date.

3. Tell me about a time you set a goal for yourself. How did you go about ensuring that you would meet your objective?

I set a goal to move out of my parents and become more independent last year. I was feeling discouraged about being graduated from school without any education outside of high school or consistent job experience. I wanted to work towards moving out and becoming more independent as an individual. I ended up renting a room with family in the summer of 2020, and immediately began working full time and working towards renting my own place. It was difficult at times but I learned to be more resilient and hard working while saving up money at the same time. I still wasn't making enough to afford a place of my own, so I began considering other options to make more income and become entirely self-sufficient. I decided on taking a computer programming class, and I've been working hard to put myself in a better financial position in the coming years. It's been challenging emotionally and physically but I'm continuously working to become a more responsible and mature adult everyday.

4. Give me an example of a time when you did not meet a client's expectation. what happened, and how did you attempt to rectify the situation?

An example of when I failed to satisfy a customer was at my previous job working on cars. I was in a car wash one day and there was a man who was getting his truck washed. Me and a coworker did the best we could during our busiest time of the day to get all of the dirt and grime off of his truck, and after his wash he talked to my manager about his vehicle still not being clean. We allowed him to go back through a second time and put even more effort in ensuring he left with a clean vehicle. When he was finished with the wash, he went back to the manager and commended our patience in providing quality service and thoroughness in providing an adequate wash for him. It was a good experience to not live up to a customers hopes or expectations and be able to make things right by giving all my effort to provide a quality customer experience.

5. Tell me about a time when you worked under close supervision or extremely loose supervision. How did you handle that?

A time I worked under loose supervision was during my capstone application at codeworks. It was an independent project that as a group we were to decide what to work on, with lots of freedom and space for creativity. As collaborators we had to brainstorm and productively work together to create a large full stack application in 2 weeks. Amongst ourselves we had to decide on a leader to be a deciding vote when we came across conflict, properly plan our SCRUM style sprints each day, and hold ourselves accountable to complete a minimum viable product by the end of the two weeks. It was a great team building experiences and grew my ability to

collectively complete a full stack app productively and efficiently as a team, and everyday we equally worked just as hard to reach a point we were satisfied with our application.

Summary to prepare for interview:
To be properly prepared for an interview I need to practice my elevator pitch without any notes or reference and get comfortable giving a professional overview about myself. I need to read up on behaviour questions a bit more and feel more comfortable being open about past professional experiences as well as portraying myself in a positive way to potential employers. Once graduating, I definitely want to consistently practice whiteboard challenges to feel more prepared to the technical portion of interviewing.

Questions for Interviewer:
1. In your honest opinion what are the primary pros and cons to working here?
2. Are their any unique tools, technologies, or practices your company uses that I could research and learn more about?
3. What kind of support to juniors or recent hires get when faced with roadblocks and challenges?
4. How does your company handle employees learning their stack and technologies? Is it something that's expected to be done outside of work or is it something that is balanced with a standard work day?
5. As an employer what is unique about your work environment thats desirable to applicants and potential employees?

Whiteboard Challenge Practice
I partnered up with malia and Michaela to practice whiteboard challenges. I did a challenge where I had to check if a Person class with the properties age and name was older, younger, or the same age as me. It wasn't too difficult, and I did fizz buzz after that using modulus and conditionals and that one wasn't too challenging either. I want take time to tackle some more challenging problems to prepare for what I could potentially see in an actual interview.