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# Career Services Assignment: Building your Narrative

## Intro:

For this assignment you’ll be articulating your personal narrative or “story”. It’s a common misconception among boot camp students that since most of them didn’t work in tech prior to attending the boot camp, their personal histories are irrelevant in the post-boot camp job search. Nothing could be further than the truth. Not only will your story create inroads into the industry, but prospective employers want to know who you are, and how your story pertains to their company or product.

This assignment will walk you through a series of steps, the results of which will be your elevator pitch, or your response to the interview question, “Tell me about yourself.” We encourage you to spend some time with the below questions, and to dig deep when formulating your responses. Believe it or not 2/3 of your interview experience are behavioral/situational based questions. This exercise is key to successfully preparing for this part of the interview process. The more completely you’re able to connect the dots and articulate your story, the better off you’ll be in the job search. This assignment will take approximately one 1.5 hours.

## Instructions:

1. Add your name to the title of the doc
2. Complete each of the steps below
3. *Once you’ve completed the assignment*, share it with your \*\*CSM and make a 1:1 appointment (email addresses and calendar links below). *Please note that it’s critical that you complete the assignment and submit it prior to your 1:1. If you haven’t put the appropriate time and energy into the assignment, your CSM will ask you to reschedule your meeting.*

\*If you are confused about who your CSM is please let us know: csm@codingdojo.com

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## Assignment:

### Step 1/4 - Values Assessment

Your values drive your decisions and personal and professional pursuits. Until you’ve situated them in the context of your values, it’s often difficult to find the connections or “throughlines” between your past professional, educational, and personal pursuits and your new career.

Take this [values assessment](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e35whN7tkXtvlHv) and list the results below

Your four final values:

1. Quality
2. Curiosity
3. Solitude, Contemplation
4. Self-examination

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### Step 2/4 - Personality Assessment

While you may or may not subscribe to the accuracy of the Myers Briggs personality assessment, it is a useful tool in helping you identify strengths that pertain directly to your personal narrative.

Take this [Myers Briggs test](http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp), and then head to this site to read about your personality type: [check out this personality resource](https://www.16personalities.com/personality-types).

**Please share your personality type results below:**

1. **MY MBTI PERSONALITY TYPE** (example: INTJ, Architect): INTP
2. **(Optional) MY HIGH 5 - TOP 5 STRENGTHS FINDER: [HIGH 5 TEST](https://high5test.com)**

Pick out three or four of the strengths AND weaknesses that resonate with you and list them below. If you need more ideas for strengths/weaknesses to share please check out these [67 Competencies](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ji8rRW2q_OVxz7CGZTpw73JxYAlQlltx8G6IiXMiYKw/edit?usp=sharing) to choose from.

1. Rational
2. Curious
3. Honest
4. Introspective
5. Lazy
6. Distractible
7. Abrasive
8. Impatient

### Step 3/4 - Type out responses to the following questions:

*Why did you decide to attend a coding boot camp? How does this decision reflect your values and strengths?*

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| *I decided to attend the boot camp in order to receive a concentrated and organized education, instead of teaching it all to myself. It seemed like the rational thing to do, since Coding Dojo is likely to know more about what a programmer needs to know in order to be job-ready than I do.* |

*Briefly describe your past professional pursuits, educational history and personal passions and interests. How do your professional pursuits, education, interests and passions reflect your values and strengths?*

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| *I have a bachelor’s degree in both psychology and philosophy, and I’m currently in a Master of Business Administration program. I did over two years of psychology lab research, won an award for it, but left academia because it’s full of falsified research and the struggle for tenure, and is not a meritocracy. I have always loved the interaction between people and computers, and have used some Python and R for statistical analysis during my time doing research.* |

*Given your two above responses, what are the connections between your past professional pursuits, education, interests and passions, and your new career as a software engineer (or the associated career path of your choice)?*

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| *I hope to bring the human-research skills from my psychology degree and the logical reasoning skills from my philosophy degree to the table as a member of a web development team. I hope to eventually broaden my skillset to include Swift and other Apple oriented languages. I would like to develop web-apps and Swift apps that integrate into the Apple ecosystem of products.* |

*What was the first moment you considered software engineering (or the career track of your choice)? What obstacles did you overcome to pursue this career?*

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| *I have been considering it for years. I took computing 1 in college and learned some C, and I learned a bit of Python while in undergrad as well.* |

*What do you love about the actual work of coding? How does this reflect your values and strengths?*

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| *I love the application of language and logic in ways that have meaningful and functional purposes.* |

*Given your values, strengths, and personal and professional history, what kind of work do you want to do upon completing the program? What sort of impact do you want to have?*

*I hope to create software and websites that are not only efficient and well designed, but are also human-centric, tested, and designed around the ways that people actually interact with their technologies. I would like to eventually incorporate research into this process, and potentially get into UI/UX design.*

### Step 4/4 - Crafting Your Elevator Pitch

Now that you’ve reflected on your story, and how your values and strengths create throughlines that link your past to present, it’s time to craft your elevator pitch. This is just a first pass, and it certainly doesn’t have to be perfect. Your CSM will support you in both articulating your story and dialing in your elevator pitch during your 1:1.

**What’s in an elevator pitch?**

* An elevator pitch is a 30-60 second pitch about *who you are, what you do and where you’re going.* It highlights your uniqueness and is the “launchpad” for any conversation, be it in an interview or networking setting.
* A specific and personalized elevator pitch can go a long way in helping you network, will inform your online summaries, and will constitute your response to the dreaded question, “Tell me about yourself.”
* Note: we provide examples below, but don’t rely on them too much. Create your pitch in your own image.

**Who are you in the present and what are you passionate about? (Type out your response)**

Example: *“I’m a full stack developer, knowledgeable about Python and C#, and I’m super passionate about creative problem solving.”*

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| I’m a graduate student with a background in research mythology and design. I am currently working towards earning my Master of Business Administration, and I’m passionate about creating products with high security and tight integration with the Apple ecosystem. |

**What makes you unique and how does your past reflect that?**

Example: *“I’m a really creative person and I love to build things with my hands. I have 5 years experience in sales but decided to make a career transition in order to pursue opportunities in tech where I can exercise my creativity. I recently completed an intensive 14 week coding boot camp, which helped me to enhance my knowledge of full stack software development. I’m really looking forward to joining a dynamic, collaborative team where I can share my skills and knowledge of 3 different software languages.”*

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| I am unique because I am a philosophically minded individual coming from academia, where I thrived, but ultimately decided that the career of academic was not a good fit for the type of life that I want to live. I am a deep thinker who enjoys obsessively researching topics that interest me, and I bring a myriad of new perspectives to the table with both my academic background and my background as a person with ADHD. |

**What do you want to do in the future?**

Example: *“Though I’m comfortable in all phases of development, I love using my experience in sales and customer service to interact with people, so I really enjoy the customer-facing aspect of front-end development. I’m looking for a mission-driven company that is working on innovative new products and services, and that shares my value for creating a positive social impact.”*

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| *Eventually I would like to design and oversee the creation of products that seamlessly integrate into peoples lives. I want to help create products that ensure privacy and security from front to back-end. I am looking for a foundation for my career where I can grow and be a student-for-life.* |

As you look over your elevator pitch, does it effectively represent your strengths and values? Does it establish the throughlines that connect your past to present? Does it effectively portray your passions and how those passions relate to being a software engineer?

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| I believe that it does, but I also know that I will refine and change what I want to do as I learn more about programming and web development. |