

## **ELEVATOR SPEECH**

Hello,

My name is James, and I'm completing a degree in Analytics at University of Southern California. I expect to graduate in the spring of next year.

I am interested in a career in Data Science/Analytics.

I did my bachelor majoring in Statistics at Southeast University from China. This has helped me develop strong skills in mathematical analysis.

I have also had an internship position as a Data Scientist with The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), when I was having another master program at Utrecht University, Netherlands. During which, I discovered that I really enjoy the process of mining useful information from data and being a storyteller.

At USC, I am playing basketball in club team and intramural sports, where I learned how to shine in a highly competitive situation and developed skills in leadership.

I'd love to learn more about the opportunities.

## **LONG TERM CAREER DIRECTION AND WHAT WOULD LIKE TO DO AFTER COLLEGE**

1. Direction: being a decent data scientist in some industry. Or if there is a reasonable chance (such as promoted needed or company training), pursuing phd will be considered.
2. industry: Not sure yet which exact field/ industry I am very passionate about. Hope I can find out later. So far, Pharmaceutical (bio-tech)industry, financial industry and sports industry are all favorable.
3. Gain global experience. Don't want to be confined into one particular place. Willing to deal with different people worldwide.
4. Place: I would like to stay in America for at least 3 years in the future. On one hand, hope I can obtain legal status in the United States. On the other hand, I can also pay attention to the opportunities in my home country China. I am able to build connections between them.

## **SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT STRENGTHSFINDERS OR RIASEC THEORY QUESTIONNAIRES**

First of all, it is not free for StrengthsFinders questionnaires, which costs \$49.99. To be honest, even though I was a little bit interested in this kind of questionnaires, after seeing the price, the interest has gone with the wind immediately. However, it is free for RIASEC theory questionnaires. By comparison, someone who is interested, should try RIASEC first.

Actually, personally speaking, I am not interested in or I don't fully believe in those tests, no matter it is free or not. I have the following reasons:

1. I always doubted about whether the question settings are comprehensive, scientific, and reasonable. Let's assume they are. But human is so complicated. They may choose the one they think should be chosen, not the one truly describes their personality. However, most of the time, they are not even aware of it. Other factors will also highly affect people making decisions, such as today's mood, some events happened recently, environment. Thus, in my opinion, I think both sides (questionnaires itself and human) are unreliable and questionable.

2. People are prone to believe what they want to believe, to see what they are willing to see. Everyone has his or her own self-awareness and thus create an imagination in his mind, which is, with high probability, different a lot from the real self. Thus, even though a long, detailed report has been presented to them, they may only pay attention to those words that fit with the imagination in their heads. In the end, little change and progress would be made.

3. As shown in the website 'CliftonStrengths 34 is the best way for you to understand your talents and maximize your potential', it seems wrong for me. The only way to understand yourself is to try new thing, through failure or success, then you are able to know yourself better. For example, when I was a little boy, my mom spent a lot of money to let me try to learn different sports. I have learnt basketball, table tennis, football, swimming, badminton. But in the end, I fell in love with basketball and my talents have been shown in basketball. I knew I am way better at this sport than others. If someone just came and told you, 'look, this kid is tall and big, he must play basketball', it is probably half right but you will never understand yourself after you try it and compare with others. In addition, potential can only be maximized after struggle and fierce competition. What doesn't kill you makes you better.

4. Actually I have more words to say, but I need to save some time to build some real data analytics skills. I really enjoy thinking and arguing about this question.