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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. **Make a copy of this doc** - it will automatically add it to your drive (you’ll need to use a Gmail address)
2. Add your name to the title of the doc
3. Complete each of the steps below
4. ***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.*

\*\* **CSM email addresses / calendar links: Some CSMs share the same “location” (i.e Online Part-Time Accelerated) your dedicated CSM will email you directly to clarify their support** \*\*

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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. Creating balance in one’s life
2. Courage, Risk taking
3. Quality (Excellent, Thorough, Work)
4. Vision (Seeing the Big Picture)

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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): ENFJ, A
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](http://www.tralib.com/projects/2016/6/12/lominger-67-competencies-and-describtions-for-leadership-training-cle3n) to choose from.

1. [Problem Solver]
2. [Empathizer]
3. [Coach]
4. [Strategist]
5. [Deliverer]
6. [Self-critical/Perfectionist]
7. [Takes on too much responsibility]
8. [Creative]
9. [Wanting to please everyone]

### 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 a coding boot camp for a few reasons. The first reason was because of all the different roles I had in my career the common ground was I liked problem-solving. The second reason was because I strongly believe technology will continue to be in our future for generations to come. And lastly, I feel like I grew up with the age of the internet and have seen how far its progressed in the short amount of time so curiosity of coding and software engineering is embedded in me. The decision to attend this coding bootcamp reflects my values and strengths very well. I feel like my values have changed over the years as I progressed into the next stage of my life and the values, I have now feel more solidified to who I am and who I want to be as an individual.* |

*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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| *First professional pursuit was Pharmacist – I got my pharm tech license, was doing well in school then I switched to*  *Business – Finance to pursue a career as a Financial Analyst or Financial Planner and when I graduated college*  *Worked at Amazon as an Operational Manager for 2.5 years with one promotion and one pending when I left.*  *Went back to school to get my MBA – Business Analytics because I felt like computer-based knowledge was something I lacked but needed in order to be more successful with the upward trend in technology.*  *Working as a project coordinator and project development manager – to help pay for school and bills*  *Ultimately, all of my past experiences were motivated by very different wants and needs, and I always felt that I was just creating another puzzle piece that didn’t fit in but looking back now and looking at the big picture I feel like my past does reflect my values and strengths very well.* |

*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 think that a big connection between my past and my new pursuit is breaking out of a single status quo and paving my own path to not only helping people but bettering myself. I went through a journey where I understood that I didn’t need to go into the medical field to help people. That I could help people just as effectively by solving day-to-day problems. And finding a career where each project that you do could solve extremely diverse problems, which means learning a lot about different backgrounds and industries.* |

*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 actually first considered software engineering when one of my friends brought up how he wanted to do a bootcamp since he had the time now because he was done with Pharmacy school. He wanted to get into software engineering to better understand NFT’s and create his own. He sent me a bunch of different programs he was interested in and going through each of the websites, not only was coding dojo very transparent and structured, but the more I read, the more things started to spark in my head. Like the dots were finally connecting. Obstacles that I had to overcome to pursue this career change was mostly financials and finding the time to fit it in to my schedule. Luckily in this same time frame I was awarded a significant grant that would help pay for my MBA program and with the money I had saved I knew this was what I wanted to spend it on.* |

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

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| *One thing that I love most about the actual work of coding is the creativity behind something that is mostly perceived as zeros and ones. As artistic and creative as I’ve always wanted to be growing up, science, data, and numbers were always more of my strong suit. How can you prove someone is artistic? How is one art piece deemed amazing while others are not? Are questions not easily answered without bias. But coding to me is the ability to create something that can be deemed amazing to everyone with the backbone being numbers, functions, and text. Everything working simultaneously together in the background to present something that can be used and enjoyed by anyone that has use for it. It allows for anyone deemed “un-artistic” to have the ability to be artistic and create. I feel like this reflects not only my values and strengths but my weaknesses as well. It gives me an opportunity to once again turn my weaknesses into strengths.* |

*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?*

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

Now that you’ve reflected on your story, and how your values and strengths create through lines 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 am a current MBA student, Coding Dojo student, and a Project Development Manager for PMM Electronics. I am passionate about learning new things, researching, and solving problems. |

**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 have a super diverse background and have excelled in each of the previous roles I have had. I have a strong Biochem background from my Pharmacy Technician experience and schoolwork. Then when I transitioned to my Business major, I was a Marketing & PR intern for Swimspot, a Tutor for students K-12 in English and Math, and a Sales Associate for Pink by Victoria Secret. After graduating my undergrad, I worked as an Operational Manager for Amazon where I learned an abundance about supply chain, working with cross-departmental teams, and communicating effectively with a diverse team. And now I currently work as a Project Coordinator/Project Development Manager. |

**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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| *In the future I want a meaningful career whether its working for a mission-driven company that focuses on innovation that helps solve problems or creating a start-up or doing free-lance work to do the same thing. I want the ability to have a flexible work schedule so that I don’t miss out on important things like family especially when I decide to start a family of my own.* |

As you look over your elevator pitch, does it effectively represent your strengths and values? Does it establish the through lines 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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