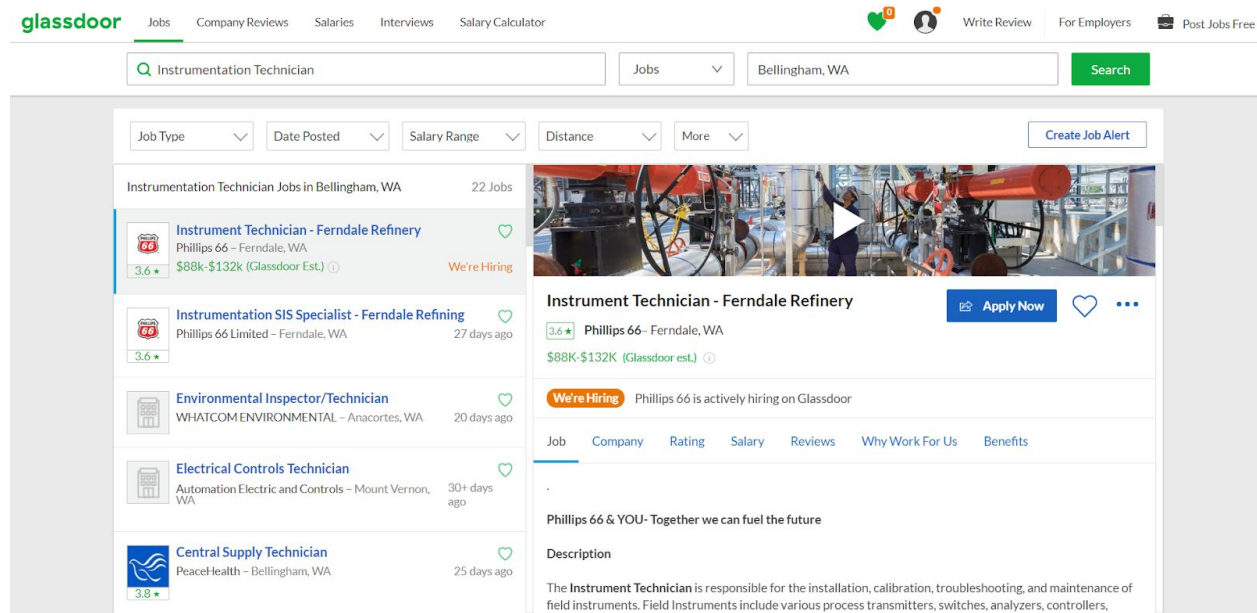


Q 1 - Job Search Engines

- Indeed.com
- Monster.com
- USAJobs.gov
- Glassdoor.com



Q 2 - TWIC Card

TWIC stands for Transportation Worker Identification Credential, it is used to verify the identity and clean security background of the individual and grant them access to secure maritime assets.

It is commonly required in industries where unescorted access to secure port facilities is required (e.g. Oil Refineries & Offshore wells).

The cost to apply for a TWIC card is \$125.25.

Q 3 - Technical Interview Questions

The best response to a technical question I don't know the answer to is:

1. State that I don't know the answer
2. Describe *how* I would find and verify the answer

Q 4 - References

My references should be people I have worked with in the past that have a positive opinion of my work. They should *not* be people with little knowledge of my work, or people with personal connections (e.g. family). The goal references serve is to both represent me well and to aid prospective employers with determining my suitability.

Q 5 - Past experience interview questions

Answering questions about past experiences with hypothetical scenarios and behavior instead of actual experiences isn't actually answering the question that's asked and says less about my behavior after making a mistake and more about how well I can pander to the interviewer.

"Tell me about an incident on the job where you made a mistake, and also describe what you did to correct it."

Working at Lynden Door, I prepared the core for a large order of doors to the wrong length, and unfortunately this error was discovered by the assembly team when they started building the doors.

I verified the parts I prepared were too long, and double checked the correct length. I took the core back to my station and began cutting and sending them to the assembly team in batches, to reduce their downtime from my mistake. After correcting the issue, I reviewed my math to find my error and reduce the likelihood I cause the same issue again.

Positive attributes revealed by this answer: honesty, accuracy, ownership, efficient recovery, learning from my mistakes

Q 6 - Weakness interview question

Answer "what's your greatest weakness?" becomes much easier when we consider what the interviewer is looking to see in prospective employees, honesty, self-reflection, and motivation for improvement.

The best answer I can give in an interview is a minor weakness (actually answering the question without shooting myself in the foot), followed by the steps I'm taking to improve.

E.g. When explaining a concept to others, I have difficulty gauging others' understanding of background information, and tend to over explain. I've been told this makes me sound condescending, though I certainly don't mean to be. I'm trying to not go as deep into the background explanation and let those I'm talking to apply their knowledge and ask questions as needed.

Q 7 - Common "tricky" questions

The purpose of "tricky" or "out-of-the-box" questions is to see how the candidate thinks. With any of these question it's best to explore the idea verbally. For me the trickiest questions are those that aren't questions at all, e.g. Bill Gates' bathroom and the "red" black pen.

Why is it that when you turn on the hot water in any hotel, for example, the hot water comes pouring out almost instantaneously?

For hot water to come out of the tap almost instantly the hot water pipes need to be filled with hot water, but over time stationary water in the pipes will cool to ambient temperature. Introducing a “purge/drain” system into the hot water pipe near the tap would allow the hot water to slowly exit the pipe, replenishing the cooled water with fresh hot water. However, this system would waste both water and heat, by strategically placing the water heater to shorten the lengths of the hot water pipes and adding efficient insulation around the pipe reduces the lost heat, requiring a slower purge and less waste.

Q 8 - Employer research

1. Employer career pages
2. Word of mouth (e.g. networking)
3. Digital “smoke-stacking” -- finding a potential employer through google maps and contacting them directly about instrumentation technician positions

Q 9 - Self endorsements

Self endorsements have no value on resumes and cover letters as the person giving the endorsement is the person with the most to gain by providing an inaccurate assessment of the candidate.

Self-endorsements should be replaced with actual experiences that could be verified by a reference. Instead of “hard-working and motivated”, “volunteered for and sought out projects and assignments”.

Q 10 - Employer investment

New employees incur:

- Reduced productivity of existing staff during training
- Equipment & insurance expenses
- Trainee pay and benefits during training
- Costs of correcting errors during training
- Costs associated with interviewing, reference verification, and test of potential hires