



# Career Services Assignment: Building your Narrative

## Intro:

*This assignment is pre-work for the upcoming Interview Mastery Workshop.*

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. **Bring your completed assignment to the Interview Mastery Workshop** - the date and time are included in the email this assignment was provided in.

## 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](#) and list the results below

Your four final values:

1. Openness Receptive to new ideas
2. Vision (Seeing the big picture)
3. Personal growth and learning
4. Social concerns pursuing the common good

## 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](#), and then head to this site to read about your personality type: [check out this personality resource](#).

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

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

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](#) to choose from.

1. Strategist
  2. Problem solver
  3. Coach
  4. Self believer
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1. While strategizing it can slow me down and make me over think things.
  2. Sometimes when solving problems I tend to go down rabbit holes.
  3. People seem to find comfort in my knowledge in the midst of my growth stage, so errors can be difficult.
  4. My desires can make me over confident. I need to constantly humble my knowledge with research.

## 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?*

*I attended Coding dojo because I have ideas I want to bring to life and I want to make my resume stand out and take my portfolio to the next level.*

*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?*

*In the past I acquired my insurance license because I thought selling insurance may be the best and fastest way to raise money to build the apps that I wanted to build. Along my journey I realized if I wanted it done right, I should do it myself. So I gave up my job as an insurance salesperson and became a designer and developer. I pivoted my strategy with the mind to solve a problem, with full belief in myself.*

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)?

*Doing insurance I wanted to help people by helping them protect their wealth and help myself generate income through my services to build an app that I also believed would help others. But I decided since my passion was to create apps anyway why not just learn to become a developer.*

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?

*The first moment I considered becoming an engineer was about 11 years ago at 23 years old, when I had an idea for an app that I thought could help others. I scribbled things on a napkin. I tried to send myself a poor man's patent for the idea. And after a week when I realized I couldn't create the idea myself I started searching for someone to make it for me. I soon realized how much no one cared about my ideas, how insignificant I and my ideas were in the world. And even if it was the idea that could save the world from a natural disaster no one would believe or care because people care more about "cat memes" than the future. So I gave up! It lingered in my mind for 5 years before I picked it up again and one day something happened. A natural disaster hit and I thought if my idea was out years ago maybe things would be different. Could have saved many lives out of the many that were lost simply by fixing a communication issue. And that's when my pursuit became more about others than about financial gain.*

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

*I love the power of coding and what it can and has done for the world. It involves solving problem through problem solving and that's one of my 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?

*I want to work on projects that help others in every way from major to minor as long as my ideas change lives for the better.*

## 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."*

I am a UI/UX Designer passionate about learning development, 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."*

I'm very creative and I always loved to take things apart and tinker. I'm naturally curious about how things work. I took a UI/UX Design bootcamp and learned HTML, CSS, and Javascript from a udemy course. These helped me enhance my knowledge of front end development. But I have a burning desire to learn all aspects of development on top of my design skills.

### 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."*

In the future I want to own my own tech business. I want to have the skills to build an entire project from start to finish by myself.



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?

It puts my passions, desires and goals in perspective.