

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 ****

DUY LYFORD: Boise, San Jose & Online Part-Time Accelerated

- dlyford@codingdojo.com / calendly.com/duylyford

DONALD WOODARD: Chicago & Online Part-Time Accelerated

- dwoodard@codingdojo.com / <https://calendly.com/dwoodard>

JOSEPH YEA: Burbank, Bellevue, Online Part-Time Flex, Online Data Science, & Online Cyber Security

- jyea@codingdojo.com / calendly.com/jyea

BENJAMIN GREENE: Oakland & Orange County

- bgreene@codingdojo.com / calendly.com/ben-csm/30min

BRIAN SANCHEZ: Online Full-Time

- bsanchez@codingdojo.com / calendly.com/bsanchez_

TEAERA RAINES: Online Part-Time Accelerated

- traines@codingdojo.com / calendly.com/teaeraraines

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. Creativity, originality
2. Quality (Excellent, Thorough Work)
3. Honesty and Integrity
4. Vision (Seeing the Big Picture)

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. Winner
 2. Self-Believer
 3. Optimist
 4. Brainstormer
-
1. Social Intelligence
 2. Self regulation
 3. Humility
 4. Gratitude

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?

Ever since I was a young boy Software, Computers and technology were at the heart of my interests, But due to various life circumstances and family influence. I had to deviate to engineering and sadly not the kind I liked. Now I am here seeking an old childhood passion. I always believed that life has endless possibilities and no time is too late. I am quite optimistic and confident that I can be upto the challenge and even excel.

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 University, I pursued a Bachelor in Civil engineering due to family influence and where we used to live. As i was a kid i got my first computer when i was just 5 years old, a combination of curiosity, interest and a sense of discovery made this combination turn into a passion which only grew in time, through my school years any subject that directly study technology, software or IT was a breeze, i always envisioned myself working in the IT industry one day but as said "A man does not attain all his heart's desires for the winds do not blow as the vessels wish.

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)?

Life is all about experience, from my previous experience i learned how to deal with different people, how to persuade and get the intended results, to manage and organize, to problem solve and think critically, to be humble and patient, to think out of the box and how to get my team out of critical situations, to respect time, work according to a timeline and be aware of deadlines, to know when to stop and where to invest my efforts.

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?

I think i always wanted to be a software engineer but it was a matter of if i had the courage to take the first step or not, being my parents only son it's always a challenge to convince them with something new, coming from an already technical background understanding concepts is a breeze but applying what is learned within different applications and languages is where the challenge lies, also it's quite important to be able to think how other humans act or think or might be interested and i am sure i will be facing many more challenges as on this journey i am still in the beginning.

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

Every code is original in its own way, it takes creativity to create the most efficient yet best functional code, the more refined and less buggy your code is the higher its quality, refining things and finding mistakes is

where i thrive, i like to modify and make things better more efficient and functional, envisioning and imagining the final picture is one of my self values and attributes and it happens to be one of the very fundamentals of coding where righting the pseudo code is the first step.

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 can see endless possibilities of chances and opportunities upon completing the program. I am looking forward to having a position where I can practice problem solving and be able to unlock my full potential, critically think and find out of the box solutions. I can see myself as part of a Back-end development team,

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 an aspiring full-stack developer with a strong engineering background, I have a very wide library of applications such as Python, Java and many others, and I am an absolute learning machine, addicted to problem solving and keen on critical thinking.

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."*

Commitment, Honesty and Hard work is what drives me daily, I started my career 4 years ago in the construction field, but decided to revive a childhood passion and pursue a career in information technology, i recently completed an intensive 14 week coding boot camp and can honestly say the it was a life changing experience, that enhanced both my soft and hard skills and had a lot of impact on who i am right now, I'm really looking forward to joining a dynamic, collaborative team where i can share my skills and knowledge of 3 different software languages.

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."*

Through my experience as an engineer in the construction field, enhance my technical skills, met many amazing people, learned responsibility and commitment and many other things along with what i have learned during my time at the boot camp and combining my experiences i think i can achieve many great things, i enjoy digging into details, refining into perfection, getting the maximum quality upto my potential and finding the best and most efficient techniques which is well suited for Back-end development, I am looking for a dynamic mission-driven company that would embrace my attention to detail and grow it even further, share my value and quality standards.

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 reflects on my passion since my childhood uptil now, and establishes a deep connection between the past and present as it highlights what i wanted to be ever since i was a little kid, i honestly can't count the times curiosity in software and technology led me to maintenance facilities as i screwed up my devices, i feel alive and thrilled whenever new technologies emerge and feel the urge to try and toy with it as soon as possible.