Q: Can you describe your experience with specific skills or technology related to the industry?

A: From my time as an ELT, I have experience with troubleshooting various types of electronic and mechanical instruments. I have some basic familiarity with batch and python scripting, although those skills are rusty. I currently use Linux so I'm fairly comfortable with that, though at a beginner level.

Q: What attracted me to this industry?

A: IT is unique in a variety of ways. Because it prioritizes knowledge over certification, and in some cases even certification over degrees, it's more based around merit than pedigree. It also works with information that isn't based on interpretation of abstract laws - it's systems that were designed by some person, and you can't just guess at how they might have designed it, you need to know the details. In my experience, IT also lends itself towards driving people to adopt a wide variety of skills (both soft and technical skills), and to constantly strive to be able to do more things and cover more responsibilities, even if it's only as a backup plan. I like the challenge, too, since IT isn't something that was taught in school so it's something I have had to learn on my own (for the most part, thank you LASCE).

Q: What are my key strengths and weaknesses?

A: I love to learn new things, and I type fast (108 words per minute). My biggest weakness is probably that I'm kind of anxious, so I tend to talk fast. I also have poor stamina, and need to eat a lot throughout the day if I'm doing anything strenuous.

Q: Where do I see myself in the next 3-5 years, and how does this position fit into my career goals?

A: My goal is to land a job as a sys admin, or something similar. I love the idea of controlling a variety of machines from one computer, honestly my relationship with SSH is borderline obsessive. I remember the only time in college that I was excited to get out of bed was when I was waiting to check on a *monster* of a script that I had set to run overnight - unfortunately I lost all the code because I didn't (and still don't) know how to use GitHub (at all). At any rate, it seems entirely plausible to land a job as a sys admin within 5 years in the industry (guessing), so this position would allow me to acquaint myself with the culture of the company and otherwise acclimate myself to the parts of IT that aren't found in manuals, schematics, or APIs. I will most definitely need to go for the CompTIA Network+, Security+, and A+ certifications (I'm already studying for A+, and I could probably take Network+ tomorrow). Additionally, in IT even relatively simple mistakes can cost a company millions of dollars, so naturally you'd need to establish a reputation for doing things the right way the first time *every* time before working on anything sensitive. This role (whatever title it is) will give me an opportunity to demonstrate that kind of caution and dedication.