

# Resume critique



4/4 questions correct

Quiz passed!

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1.

In this quiz you will identify common errors in resume writing and how to correct them. Throughout this quiz assume the date of submission is January 2016.

Consider the following resume:

Q1ResumeA.pdf (<https://d18ky98rny...>)

Which of the following is the *main* flaw in this resume?



The experience listed is not appropriate for the position sought



Its formatting makes it hard to read



It is likely out of date



## Correct Response

We will discuss this more in the video that follows this quiz, but notice that the applicant has a large gap between August 2014 and the present (January 2016). Give the activities of the applicant in

previous summers, one would expect something similarly significant in the summer of 2015. However, even the applicant's honors seem to have stopped abruptly in 2014. Making this gap stand out even more, the applicant listed a position as the founder and president of the University Robotics Kite Club in Fall 2015, making the gap in spring and summer 2015 stand out even more.

In contrast, consider Taylor Techie's resume, which is clearly more up to date:

Q1ResumeUpToDate.pdf (<https://...>)

☐ It likely overstates the applicant's skills

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2.

**[REQUIRED reflective question]** This next question is a self-graded task. You'll need to complete a separate task before you can answer this question.

Consider the following resume:

Q2ResumeTooLong.pdf (<https://d18k...>)

This resume is obviously way too long. Your goal is to create a new resume with most of the same content but with different formatting so that all the information (1) fits on one page, and (2) is appropriately and clearly organized so that it's easy to pick out the skills and experience that this candidate has. You can reorganize content as you feel is appropriate, or cut any content you don't feel belongs on a 1-page resume.

Once you've completed this task, answer the following question:

Were you able create a 1-page resume that clearly presents the same information about the candidate? We'll show you our version in the feedback so you can compare what you did to what we did. We also

encourage you to post your version on the discussion forum (via link or image) to discuss your approach with your fellow learners!

- ☐ Yes, I did it and I am happy with the result
- ☒ I got it onto one page, but I don't think it presents the information well.



Take a look at our example and see if it gives you any inspiration.

ResumeShortened.pdf (<https://d...>)

- ☐ No. I tried, but I couldn't do it
- ☐ I didn't feel like doing it, so I didn't even try



3.

Consider this resume:

Q4AveryAble.pdf (<https://d18ky98rny...>)

Which of the following scenarios is most likely to occur in Avery's interview?

- ☒ Avery will not be able to correctly implement the solution to the live coding question the interviewer asks.



**Correct Response**

Right, this is the situation that is most likely to occur, given the skills listed on Avery's resume. It is unlikely that as a first-year CS student, Avery knows 15 languages well enough to code comfortably in them in an interview setting no matter how much self-study Avery has done. But because 15 languages are listed, that gives the interviewer fair game to select any for the live coding questions.

Especially early in your career, be honest with your skills. Distinguish between languages in which you are proficient, comfortable, and have only passing knowledge on, as Taylor Techie does in this resume:

Q4TaylorTechie.pdf (<https://d18k...>)

This way you don't "oversell" your skills and end up falling short during the interview.

- ☐ Avery will not be able to correctly describe the experience of participating in a Hackathon
  - ☐ The interviewer will speak in French, and Avery will not understand.
  - ☐ Avery will not be able to answer the interview's question about graph algorithms.
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4.

**[REQUIRED reflective question]** Consider the following two resumes:

Q5TaylorTechie.pdf (<https://d18ky98r...>)

Q5AveryAble.pdf (<https://d18ky98rny...>)

For each applicant, state a brief description of the job you think they are applying for, and then give a sentence or two about why you think this.

While you answer this question, consider what about their resumes makes answering this question easier or more difficult.

Avery is looking for a job as a software engineer but the resume is very unclear about what stream the requirement is in. Also the position descriptions are very high level to understand. Should be better formatted.

Taylor is looking for a starting position as a full stack engineer as he mentioned all the skills up there. It is well formatted

**Thank you for your response.**

You probably found this much easier to do in the case of Avery Able. Avery is probably applying for an internship that involves taking data, potentially image or video data, from a networked system and then applying some kind of computer vision or machine learning algorithms. While Avery's resume doesn't list nearly as much detail as Taylor's, Avery's details are targeted toward what seems to be a specific job with desired qualifications.

On the other hand, it was difficult or impossible to predict the kind of job that Taylor was applying for. Taylor's resume lists just about every skill and piece of knowledge possible, and doesn't show how s/he is specifically qualified for a particular job.

Remember that employers are generally looking to fill a specific role with someone with a specific set of skills. The more generic your resume looks, the more difficult it is for them to envision you filling their specific need. To the extent possible, target your resume to match the specific skills and knowledge required for the position you are applying for.