

Introductions I Coursera

Important Information

It is especially important to submit this assignment before the deadline, March 13, 10:59 PM PT, because it must be graded by others. If you submit late, there may not be enough classmates around to review your work. This makes it difficult - and in some cases, impossible - to produce a grade. Submit on time to avoid these risks.

Instructions

Introducing Yourself During an Interview

In this peer review assignment you will introduce yourself to a fictional interviewer. You will record yourself and submit this recording for peer review.

Instructions

You should imagine a technical interviewer has just asked you one of the following questions (which question you choose is up to you):

1. "Tell me a little bit about yourself"
2. "Why are you interested in software engineering?"

You may assume this is for a general software engineering position, but if you'd like to specialize (e.g., software engineering position with focus on machine learning) you can, and you can explain your interest in this specialized position in a short introduction.

Your assignment, then, is to film a 45-75 second video of yourself that includes the following parts:

1. An introduction of no more than 15 seconds, where you specify which question you will answer and the position you are imagining you are applying for (e.g. "I am applying for a software engineering position at a data-intensive company with a focus on machine learning. The interviewer has just asked me, 'Tell me a little bit more about yourself.'")
2. Your answer to the interviewer's question in 30-60 seconds.

Please do not exceed 75 seconds total in your response.

You should also adhere to these additional guidelines in your response:

The "Interviewer"

- You will treat the person on the other end of the camera as the "interviewer". I.e. you will talk directly to the camera's lens, imagining someone on the other side. The reason we ask you to talk to the camera

instead of another person is that talking into the camera is likely a better simulation of the awkwardness of talking to a stranger than talking to a friend or family member who already knows you would be.

- Assume that the "interviewer" has a broad technical background and will be aware of common software engineering terms.

Filming

- You can use any video camera that will produce a reasonable video with clear audio including a cell phone, flip camera, etc. It does not have to be high production quality, but remember that if your peers cannot see your response, they will not be able to judge your explanation.

Personal Details

Lastly, as this is an open course, please feel free to limit personal details. If you wish to use a pseudonym, that's okay. We recommend you be vague about your background (e.g., "I work at a software company" rather than the name of the company, "I'm studying at university" rather than the actual school name, etc.) as your personal details aren't critical for the evaluation.

Please take this into account if you are in a position where you don't want others to know you are taking this course.

Language

We recognize that many people taking this course are not native English speakers, and you may not be applying for a job where you will need to speak English. Thus we are allowing learners to complete this assignment in the language of their choice. However, please note the following when deciding what language to use:

- Most of our learners speak English, so if you choose to do your video in English you are most likely to get the fastest peer reviews. Other major languages should be OK, but if you are having trouble getting peer reviews, it could be because there are not enough learners on the platform that speak the language you used.
- If your video is not in English, please note the language you used in the TITLE OF THE UPLOADED FILE. This will help reviewers find videos they are able to review and get you your reviews as fast as possible.

Review criterialess

In this assignment you will receive feedback on your introduction of yourself.

Your final score on this assignment will be the median score you receive from your peers, but what you might find most useful is the open-ended comments that they provide in their review. Because of this, please **make sure you give thoughtful and complete feedback when reviewing others.**

Giving thoughtful feedback is difficult, which is why we have set the bar for passing this assignment

relatively low (you only need to earn 1 point to pass this assignment, and as long as you upload a video with an introduction, you should earn that point). We want you to feel more free to give and receive constructive feedback without overly worrying about "passing". Before you start your review for any one submission, you probably want to take a look at several submissions.

Most importantly, don't be afraid to suggest improvements, but do so in a constructive and supportive way. Filming yourself can be difficult and intimidating for many of us, so please recognize that the hardest part may have been just creating the video in the first place. Lastly, recognize that the person receiving feedback may feel very vulnerable having provided this video for feedback, **be courteous and respectful in your response**.

Please note that all open-ended feedback should be given in English or in the language in which the video was recorded.

The Peer Review Process

Here are the instructions for completing your peer reviews:

First, select a video to review *with a preference toward reviewing videos in other languages if you are fluent in the non-English language*. You should be able to see the language of the video in the file name, if the video is not in English. Learners can upload videos in the language of their choice, but are dependent on reviewers who are fluent in these languages to review them. So if you can review a non-English video, please do so.

Next, make sure you can access the video. It should be in .mp4 format which many video players can handle, and if you don't have one that works, you can search online to find one.

Next, watch their video as though you were interviewing them. Then, we will ask you to provide feedback to your peers in the following areas:

Overall Content

1. Did they tell you about their general background in software engineering (do they work in the field or are they currently students in the field)?
2. Did they convey what makes them unique? I.e. did you get a sense of their personal "brand", or what makes them different from the hundreds of other applicants?
3. Was their response of an appropriate length?

Overall "Soft Skills"

1. Did they make good eye contact with the camera and have appropriate posture and body language (to the extent that you could observe it)?
2. Did they avoid nervous tics (e.g. biting nails, excessive use of words like "uh" or "like", etc)?
3. Did they speak clearly and enthusiastically?
4. Overall, did they convey confidence to you?

When you provide your review, you should provide open-ended feedback to give specific comments on any of the aspects from the rubric questions. It is this open-ended feedback that will be most valuable to you and other learners.