**Mastering the Behavioral Interview** A 3-Part Series for Software Engineers

by Sachin Tugnayat, SDM Amazon

**Session 1: Foundation and Fundamentals**

**Opening** Interactive icebreaker: "Share your most memorable interview experience"

* Brief introduction of Sachin's background
* Quick poll: "What aspects of behavioral interviews make you most nervous?"

**Key Topics The Bar Raiser Perspective**

* Why behavioral interviews matter at top tech companies
* What Bar Raisers or Hiring Managers look for beyond technical skills
* Interactive exercise: "Spot the leadership principles in action"

**Senior vs Junior Engineer Expectations** Leadership responsibilities

* Strategic thinking
* Cross-team collaboration
* Discussion: "What differentiates a senior engineer?"

**Workshop Component** STAR/SBI method introduction and how to make this effective with learnings and other important parts to this method Practice exercise: Converting a technical achievement into the format

* Peer feedback session

**Session 2: Advanced Response Strategies**

**Opening** Recap of Session 1

* Share and discuss homework experiences
* Quick poll: "Which leadership principle is hardest to demonstrate?"

**Key Topics Crafting Powerful Stories**

* Story bank development
* Impact quantification
* Technical context translation
* Exercise: "Measure your impact"

**Common Pitfalls**

* Technical deep dives vs leadership focus
* Scope and scale demonstration
* Interactive analysis: "Good vs Bad Response Examples"

**Workshop Component**

* Role-play exercisesReal-time feedback from peers
* Group analysis of response structures

**Session 3: Mastery and Mock Interviews**

**Opening** Series recap

* Final preparation checklist

**Key Topics Advanced Techniques**

* Handling unexpected questions
* Demonstrating ownership
* Cross-functional leadership
* Exercise: "Navigate the Ambiguity"

**Interview Psychology**

* Building rapport
* Confidence vs arrogance
* Reading interviewer signals
* Discussion: "Managing Interview Stress"

**Mock Interview Showcase** Live mock interviews with volunteers

* Group analysis and feedback
* Best practices demonstration

**Closing and Resources** Key takeaways

* Additional resources
* Next steps