



TEAMWORK AND “BEHAVIOR” QUESTIONS: HOW TO PREPARE IN ADVANCE

CS9 - 1/28/2014

“TOP 10 MISTAKES IN INTERVIEW PREP”

—GAYLE MCDOWELL, *CRACKING THE CODING INTERVIEW*

#1 Practicing on a computer

#2 Not rehearsing behavioral questions

#3 Not doing a mock interview

#4 Trying to memorize solutions

#5 Not solving problems out loud

#6 Rushing

#7 Sloppy coding (bad style), #8 Not testing, #9 Fixing mistakes carelessly

#10 Giving up

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“WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST WEAKNESS?”

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Other examples:

- “Tell me about a time you missed a deadline.”
- “Tell me about a time you experienced a conflict with a teammate.”

NEXT WEEK: TEAMWORK/ “BEHAVIOR” QUESTION MOCK INTERVIEWS

You need to prepare in advance for these questions, that's why we're bringing this up this week! Please prepare the following, *in writing*, before next class.

(1) BRAINSTORM, (2) CATALOG, AND (3) ORGANIZE, YOUR ANECDOTES

Common Questions	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	...
Most challenging				
What you learned from experience				
Most interesting				
Hardest bug				
Enjoyed most				
Conflicts with Teammates				

—Gayle McDowell, *Cracking the coding interview*

ADVICE FOR UNDERCLASS STUDENTS

These questions are especially challenging for students who haven't taken major team project courses or internships from which to draw relevant anecdotes

Solution 1: take one or more of these ASAP:

- 108, 140, 143, 210, 221, most of the AI classes, ...

Extra care will be required to map your other activities (sports, clubs, etc) onto these questions in a relevant way

MORE TIPS (FROM CRACKING THE PM INTERVIEW)

STRUCTURE your response

“DRIVE, NOT RIDE” watch your interviewer’s body language for signs you’re not giving enough detail or giving too much detail

- If the interviewer is asking many follow ups to which you give short responses, you aren’t giving enough detail
- If you think you might be giving too much detail, you can scale back and then periodically ask, “Would you like me to elaborate more on that?”