# The Bridging Exercise Part 1

**NAME: PHONG HONG VO**

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| **EDUCATION: UMass Lowell** | |
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| WHAT YOU LIKE(D)   * Friendly academic environment * Devoted and enthusiastic instructors and TAs * Fully loaded facilities and equipment | WHAT YOU DISLIKE(D)  N/A   * Add a dislike(d) thing |
| **EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL** | |
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| WHAT YOU LIKED   * Had lots of friends | WHAT YOU DISLIKED  N/A |
| **PREVIOUS JOBS** | |
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| WHAT YOU LIKE(D)   * Worked on lots of huge cutting-edge and hi-tech projects * Got many connections with partners and colleagues. | WHAT YOU DISLIKE(D)   * Bossy managements * Sloppy co-workers |

# Skill Identification Exercise:

1. Review the list of job-related skills below
2. Think about times or situations when you have used each skill, and note that example in the right-hand column
3. Use this worksheet to develop content for your resume, as well as to prepare for career fairs and interviews

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| **Skill** | **Example (job, academic and/or volunteer experience)** |
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| Ability to solve problems (related to your major or concentration if possible) | I use the ability to solve the problems and assignments at UMass Lowell, specifically in resolving homework, assignments and projects. I apply all of the lecturing materials and clues that I ‘ve studied to approach the ways to solve the problems.   * Provide a specific example   When an assignment requires me to make a searching for a specific letter in an array or a queue, I pop out very quickly the best way to resolve is working with ‘for’ loops which may traverse entire the array/queue. At every single loop, I compare the sample character with each array/queue ‘s element where contains a character. |
| Strong hands-on mechanical skills; can take things apart and put them back together | I have the skills that help me disassemble and assemble things with no hassles. These hands-on mechanical skills really helped me when I was working for my former hi-tech corporations (Vietnam Airlines and Saigon Software Park). When I worked there, I used to attach and detach hi-tech avionics equipment from/to aircrafts, such as navigation computers, digital gyros, aircraft engines health monitoring computers, display units controllers. |
| Strong analytical aptitude and attention to detail | I used my analytical aptitude and attention to detail when I was a SI leader (Supplemental Instructor) at Middlesex Community College. Those my skills helped students catching up the classes by analyzing in detail the lectures, approaching the problems prior to solving them. |
| The ability to apply sound professional judgement |  |
| The ability to use laboratory equipment to generate data and process materials and/or the ability to do research to generate data and credible insights | I took two courses of Chemistry I and Chemistry II at Middlesex Community College (MCC), which included in-class lectures and lab time. I used laboratory equipment as I followed up the lab instructions to get the best results for experiments. |
| Professional communication (written and verbal) | When I was a SI leader for Programming I (C++) course at Middlesex Community College, I had to explain more on lectures to students as necessary. I used markers writing on the board to ensure everyone may get the ideas. Besides, I verbally explained more on lessons to help students catching up the lectures. |
| Effective utilization of time and resources | As a student at UMass Lowell as well as at MCC earlier, I must use effectively my time to finish homework and assignments then submit them on time. I used academic resources in the best ways to keep my education on the right tracks. |
| Working as part of an effective and collaborative team | I worked as a part in a lab group when I was at two Chemistry classes at MCC. My teammates and me performed together the Chemistry labs experiments with each person had a specific roles in entire lab experiments. |
| Innovation and creativity; can think of new ways to make things work more efficiently | UMass Lowell Computer Science major always requires students have more creativity and innovation in resolving problems. I can program an app in a different way to enhance and speed up the app. => How? |
| Strong customer-focused attitude |  |
| The ability to manage competing priorities | I can pick the most important or highest priority things that needed to finish up prior to others, based on their properties and attributes. |
| The ability to quickly learn and apply new skills | Ability to quickly learn and apply new skills are crucial when I am a student at UMass Lowell. Those abilities helped me quickly catch up lectures and assignments ‘s requirements. |
| Positive attitude/work ethic | As I was a SI leader at MCC, I explained the instructor ‘s ideas to the students until they got broke out. |
| Dependability, reliability, and flexibility |  |
| Proven leadership skills | Leadership skills are important to me when I was a head engineer in my former company. I picked the appropriate methods and equipment for every single task when working on an A330 aircraft and hi-tech machinery and devices. |
| Critical thinking; using logic to identify alternative solutions or approaches to problems | Programming is a field that needs me using critical thinking and logic to identify alternative solutions for every problem. About assignments or projects, I have the best ways to resolve with less hassles, more simple and fewer code lines. Hence, I can reduce systems ‘s resources and working loads for the computers. |
| The ability to analyze needs and product requirements to create a design or idea for a product or service that addresses those needs or requirements | My ability to analyze needs is necessary in resolving problems and assignments. I can consider several ways to meet the assignments ‘s requirements. |
| Naturally inquisitive; the ability to examine things and conceive of ways to make them better | After I have done an assignment of a course, I always looked back the created code and resolutions in that assignment before I submit it. I made a self-testing the code, examine the results to make sure those things would meet the assignments ‘s requirements. I any errors occurs, I fixed it right away then scan the code one more time until it worked. |

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| **STRENGTHS** | **WEAKNESSES** - List 3 of your weakness with how you overcome/better prepare |
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| Ability to work individually and in group | My communication skills are needed to be improved. I would improve this weakness by getting more discussions with team-mates, friends and co-workers. |
| Ability to resolve problems creatively and effectively  Be prepared with an example | I am weak at ability to apply sound professional judgments. I improve this weakness by adding more emotional sound in judgment of the problems I may run  into. => I ‘m not sure what you mean by this? |
| Ability to organize the problems in order to resolve easily. | Strong customer-focused attitude is also my weakness because I have never work on fields that interacting with customers before. I improve this weakness once I have a chance to work on customer-focused fields. |

# The Bridging Exercise Part 2

**Student Name: PHONG VO**

**Company Name: MITRE**

**Job Title: Computer Science, Software Engineer**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

For this part of the Bridging Exercise, you’re going to tighten your focus. Instead of thinking about your skills in general, you’re going to see how they apply to a specific job description. For this segment, you may find it helpful to print out your resume and job description, comparing them both side by side. This will help you “bridge” between what the company is seeking for that specific job and what skills YOU have that are most relevant to THAT job. This will help you complete the tables that follow.

You’ll also notice a section in which you are asked to come up with PARK statements. This is something that UMass Lowell uses to help their students take one of their “related examples” below and then organize it into a brief story for a job interview. The “PARK” acronym reminds you to make sure that your story efficiently describes a Problem, Action, Resolution, and Knowledge Gained.

# Company Specifics:

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| **Specify 3 Interesting facts about the company** | Why do you want the job? |
| Has many projects such as Information Management, Programming/Software Development | I worked on academic projects and assignments which related to Information Management and Programming/Software Development. => such as? What did you like about them? |
| Specifies on powerful programming languages: Java, Python, C#, Object C, Database design | Most of my past projects were programmed with Java, C#, C and C++. I want the job because my programming skills would have chances to be actually applied when working for the company. |
| Has opportunities for students who want to learned many other programming languages | My goal in the future is learning more programming languages to ensure working more widely and perfectly with co-workers and company’s partners.   * These are ok, but what interests you specifically about MITRE? |

# Related Examples:

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| Desired skill, quality, experience, interest **that is relevant to this employer for this job** | Related example(DESCRIBEWHERE & HOW YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED THESE SKILLS) |
| Proficiency in one or more of the following – Java, Python, HTML, C#, Objective C, Database design | I used Java as the main programming language to finish my latest academic project. It was developed to manage employee data of a determined company such as: First Last name, DOB, SSN, ID, phone number, address, email, position title, date of entry, department.  Many of the assignments at UMass Lowell required me working with Object C and C++ such as Data Structures, Stack, Queue, Vector, AVL, Binary Search Tree, Sorting Algorithms, Image encryption with LFSR, DNA Sequence Alignment.  My final project of my engineering degree (in Vietnam) was built with C# thank to Visual .NET platform. That established project can simultaneously detect and recognize three types of vehicles (sedan, bus and freightliner truck) which may appear in captured videos, count their quantity and estimate the distance from camera to the objects in real-time. |

# PARK Statements:

PROBLEM: What problem or challenge did you face in the situation?

ACTION: What steps did you take to address that problem or challenge: What were you thinking and feeling, and, most importantly, what did you DO about the problem?

RESOLUTION: What happened? How did the problem or challenge get resolved? What was the outcome for you and others affected by the problem?

KNOWLEDGE GAINED: What did you learn from the experience? What did it teach you? What lessons did you take away here, and how do they apply to the job that you’re seeking now?

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| **Problem** | Action | resolution | Knowledge Gained |
| Created a program named Employee Information System using Java. The program can manage entered information such as FL name, ID, DOB, position title, address, email, phone number, ID, department | Picked Java as the main language to work with.  Determined each type of information that needed to be processed.  Picked the exact additional techniques and tools that may help the project. | Set up programming environment for Java.  Resolved each specific type of information with an appropriate data type, such as FL name (Strings), DOB (String), ID (String and integer), Position title (string), address-email (String), phone number (integer) | Using Java and its techniques and tools properly.  The ways that the programming techniques worked with input database. |