VSoE Panel

Academic Interviewing

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March 12, 2010
Why am I here?

✓ I called Dept. Chair before sending resume.
✓ Because of Stanford and Princeton.

Timing is everything.
Time on a weekly homework set: ~5 hours.
Homework worth ~15% of final grade.
~8 homework sets.

40 hours for ~15% of 1 class of 3 credits.
3 credits out of 128 total credits.

40 hours for ~0.5% of total GPA. (1/200)
4 hours for ~ 10^{-4} of total GPA.

How much time will you spend on interview preparation?
Never say anything or put something in a resume that you can’t confidently defend.

Credit is an infinite reservoir.

Quality is issue #1, 2, 3, ..., ∞

Try to motivate people as to how you can help their institution.
The Right Message for the Right Audience

Every audience & presentation is different.

The optimum slides depend critically on the specific audience.

Too many speakers are here!
Worry about offending 10% of your listeners!!

- Use “might, may, could, …”
- Avoid using “will, must, always, never, …”
- Be careful about casual references to people or companies.
- Ask yourself, “What MIGHT someone think?”
Guiding principles of “Dr. D” deciding who should be hired:
(i) the highest quality technical work with the biggest impact.
(ii) that is performed in a professional manner.
(iii) by someone who will be straightforward and pleasant to interact with.

General characteristics of our decision maker, Dr. D:
1. People are busy, and time is at a premium.
2. There is too much info, we rarely know all the facts, and we need help to judge.
3. People tend to be risk averse.
Two Job Offers?

- Real people are putting a lot of effort into hiring you.
- Respect all parties. An offer might disappear, and you will probably meet these people again.
- Accept 1, then reject others. Don’t violate causality.
- Be very careful about playing multiple institutions against each other. Very hard for a young person. Let them ask, which they probably will.

**DANGER: Once you accept an offer, remove your name from all other institutions.**
“When is it over? Magic can happen.”

It ain’t over till it’s over.

• You are **always** making an impression.
• Always keep great attitude & excitement.
• Nobody wants a sour-puss or pain in the %#&.
• Take one bite at the “negotiating” apple. Second bite can be painful.

“Bond, James Bond”:

*They’re with you till they’re not.*
Summary

Learn good habits from many different people, keep trying to get better, and choose your own path to effective interviewing skills.