

Careers

Show You Are Good At It

Did you know?

“Your response to the question “Tell us about yourself” will very likely grab the attention of the interview panelists if it presents a clear value proposition.

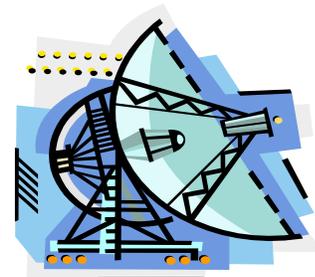
Take time to reflect on this scenario. You have written your application, motivation statement and curriculum vitae so well that you earned yourself a position to the job short-list. You have been invited for a competence-based interview. How well do you present your competences to the interview panel?

I've seen so many brilliant candidates dive straight into the interview question before first reflecting on “what is this question about?

What competence or skill is it testing? They fail to determine where they are going in the presentation of their response and the panel is left wondering what is next. I've also seen many candidates trail off at the end, without coming around ‘full circle’ from the point they started with to reiterate the key points. In some instances the candidates even forget the question in the

midst of their response. Just step Back a little bit. The following questions will help you make an impressive presentation to the interview panel:

1. Are you able to discern what competence the interview question is examining?
2. Does your introduction grab the panel's attention and explain your motivation?
3. Are the main points in your



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response ordered in a logical sequence?

4. Is your conclusion strong and is it tied or tagged to the requirements of the job? In this series of articles I will attempt to take you through these important questions and provide you with tips on how to sail through the interview

The very first question: Tell us about Yourself

The panelists want you to market your competences or skills and bring out your unique selling points vis a vis the job requirements.

The preliminary steps in the interview process are fairly standard. The Panel Chair will welcome you, offer you a seat and make a few welcome remarks. He or she sometimes makes a few pleasant-

ries to make you feel comfortable. The Chair will introduce the interview panel members, their names, titles, and roles on the panel. He or she will then explain the interview process and thereafter go on to ask the

first question. The first question will invariably take one of the following formats:

1. Tell us about yourself.
2. Why do you think you are the most suitable person for this job? Are you able to discern

what competence the interview question is examining? When the interview panelists ask you to talk about yourself, they are giving you an opportunity to market your abilities and experiences in relation to the job. They will have usually read your CV are therefore not expecting you to recite it.