

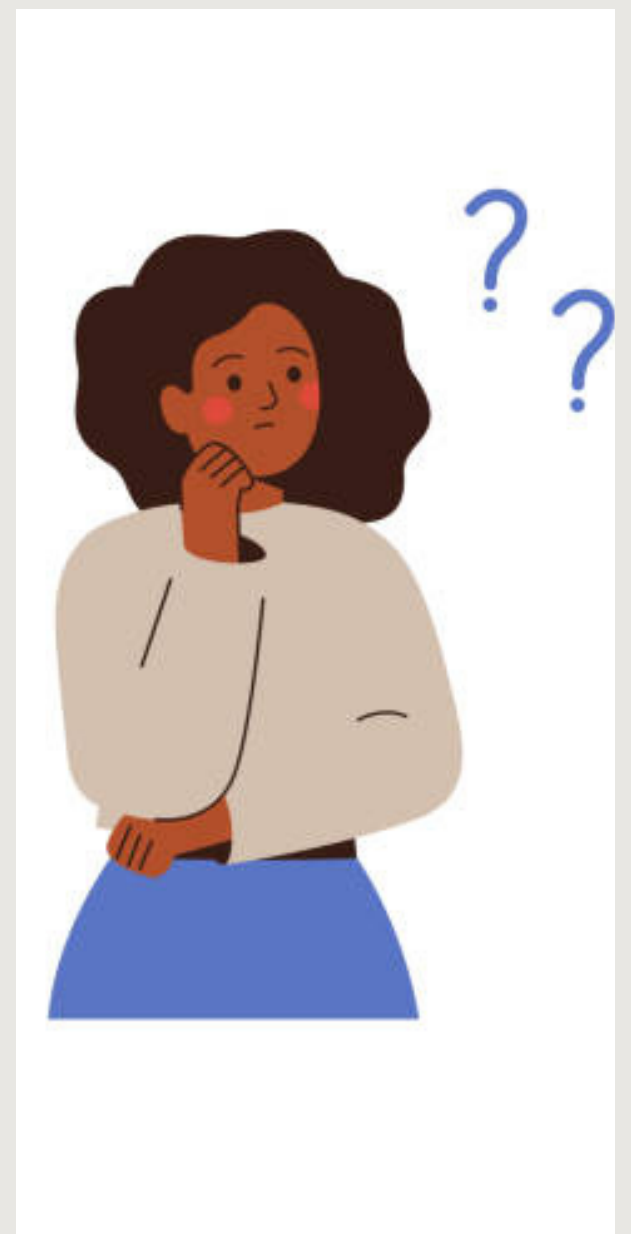


# A SIMULATED INTERVIEW

Questions like, tell me about yourself?, Why do you want this job? And what is your greatest achievement? They seem easy, don't they?

Finding the confidence to sit alongside my classmates to answer fairly straight forward questions and act in a professional manner was intimidating, although they too were preparing for their interviews it was a lonely feeling, as though I and only I would be the only one being mocked. I felt all the preparation in the world couldn't ease my nerves for the longest forty five minutes of my life. It was dreadful.

The job interview I decided upon for our simulated interviews was a videographer position based in London for a newly developed fitness app. The role entailed dealing with all aspects of video production and post-production and delivering finished edits for all digital and social media platforms. This role, in particular, caught my eye because I have a love for cinematography, dealing with camera as well as lighting is something that I have considered pursuing once I graduate from Queen's University, however dealing with social media content was also something that piqued my interest as I have grown an interest the world of marketing, particularly in the film and TV industry.



# A GLIMPSE INTO THE REAL WORLD

# PEPARING FOR THE WORST

I first began by thoroughly researching the role as it was obvious I had to show a genuine interest and enthusiasm for this particular role. I also read over the job description to make sure I understood the requirements and responsibilities of the position. I made sure I had the relevant skills and experiences for the role that I was 'applying' for. I then practised interview questions for what felt like the millionth time to prepare myself for anything. "Tell me about yourself," "Why do you want to work here?" and "What are your strengths and weaknesses?" Who knew that in the moment these questions about myself could be so difficult to answer? Do I know myself? Am I interesting enough?

I then prepared a list of notes of some of my achievements and roles that I have worked on in my placement with Relapse Pictures as I feel I have had a lot of practical experience already early on before even starting my career and an advantage some mightn't have when hoping to kickstart their career.

One thing that shocked me was the extent in which we go to make a good impression. Kaushik explains "Interviewer evaluates candidate's level of motivation, values, attitude and personality through his/her subject knowledge, work skills, communication skills, body language, dress, attitude, etiquette and manners.", so much preparation for so little time.

However there was one method that kept reappearing when researching on how to prepare for a job interview and that was the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) this method gave me an advantage when trying to structure my answer to the interview questions to the best of my ability. The last thing was to stay positive and approach the interview with a positive attitude and the confidence in myself to do well.



# THE DAY OF



It was safe to say I was in crisis mode. Anxious feelings spread through my body as each hour passed. It was almost time for the interview. It is no exaggeration to say it was the very last thing I wanted to do yet I had to.

No matter how much I had prepared and how many notes I had taken with me, they were now useless, it was time to think fast. I was determined that I would make a fool of myself, especially in front of some of my peers with I have never really conversed with. I questioned, Will they judge me? Will they laugh? I was about to find out.

Luckily my group consisted of only myself and two others, I thought it was perfect. Fewer people to judge me. We had agreed on an order in which we would conduct the interviews and thankfully I was last. Selfishly, I got to ask the questions before I was put on the hot seat myself.

As time passed and time got closer to my own interview I felt less nervous about the thought. Hearing the confidence and professionalism in my peer's answers had reassured me that it wasn't so bad after all. I had nothing to worry about, right?

## THE DAY OF

I was trying to be enthusiastic of my experience in the simulated interviews and take it as a great learning opportunity ( which it was). I should thank my peers for the fairly easy start to my interview. Asking me what would be considered general questions about myself helped ease me into the interview and make me as comfortable as possible. No doubt I could feel my palms sweating, anticipating the interview's demise. "Please be over!" I kept replaying it in my head. Ten minutes felt like hours as I explained my interest in the role and why I knew I would be the perfect candidate.

## REFLECTING UPON DISASTER?

Reflecting back, I found that there were several aspects that went well, while others presented opportunities for improvement. One of my strengths of the interview I feel was my preparation. I thoroughly researched the role I was applying for, making sure I knew everything it entailed. This allowed me to think quickly on my feet when I was asked unexpected questions that I perhaps caught me off guard. I feel my responses were quick and to the point which helped demonstrate my genuine interest in this particular role. Additionally, the questions I had gone over in my head showcased my skills and accomplishments.



During the interview itself, I believe I effectively reused the STAR method to structure my answers to questions, providing specific examples of situations I faced, some tasks I had on my placement the actions I implemented. This allowed me to showcase my ability to highlight my experience in the role of being a videographer and why I would be a great candidate for the role.

However, upon reflection, I recognize some areas where I could have improved. One such area is my body language. My peers via the feedback sheet mentioned that my body language could use work as well as my eye contact. I could have predicted those results. While I tried to the best of my ability to maintain good eye contact I noticed moments where I could have projected more confidence as I knew at times I was most likely coming off as nervous and perhaps agitated , which I most definitely was. Reflecting back on the feedback given to me it has helped me pay closer attention to certain things to improve in future interviews to ensure I come across as confident and professional.

## THE FINISHED RESULT

As my time at Queen's University Belfast is unfortunately soon coming to an end in the next few months, I feel this module was a great stepping stone for us students to get out there and help us not only look for jobs but to sit what felt like a legitimate job interview. I know it has benefitted me greatly not only in my communication skills but also in my confidence. I felt our simulated interviews were a great opportunity to prepare ourselves for an interview without feeling the full burden of worrying whether we would be successful or not, it's a great way to learn from our mistakes and gather feedback from our peers on our strengths and weaknesses throughout the interview process. Overall, this simulated interview was an extremely valuable learning experience. Having the opportunity to interview others and to gather feedback. Moving forward, I will continue to exercise my interview skills, paying thorough attention to my communication skills and how to improve them hoping that one day I will be successful in my future job interviews when I step foot into the film industry.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kaushik, U.V. and Kaushik, V., 2011. SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEW TECHNIQUE: AN ELEMENT OF SOFT SKILLS. Global Journal of Arts and Management, 1(4), pp.108-111