

# GET THE JOB

## Storytelling Can Help Get the Job

As a college student's academic career ends, it's common to feel apprehension that a resume may be lacking in work history. Sometimes, job seekers are tempted to pad their resumes with false professional experience to impress hiring managers.

When a position is open within a company, count on hiring managers to interview an extensive list of candidates. While your qualifications and experiences can help you stand apart, how you handle yourself during the meeting can also make a significant difference.

Rather than answer questions blandly, learn how to tell stories regarding your career highlights to build a solid first impression.

Since the interview process can be an uncomfortable experience for both parties, telling a story is a beneficial way to break the tension and communicate in a more personal manner. Instead of relying on your credentials and capabilities alone, follow these



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tips from the National Storytelling Network to nail your next job interview.

- **Don't overshare:** While it's a good idea to reveal personal stories, it's essential to avoid delving too deep into personal issues.

- **Be concise:** When telling your story, create an intriguing beginning, a fascinating middle and a pleasing conclusion.

- **You don't have to be the hero:** Don't leave out stories where you may not be the main character. Include stories where you led or mentored a peer to make a beneficial deci-

sion in the workplace.

The main component in telling a story during your interview is to avoid rambling and create a clear narrative for a hiring manager to absorb.

### THE STAR MODEL

If you need help deciding how to best draft a story regarding your work experience, consider hiring an interviewing coach. Many experts choose to guide job seekers by introducing them to the STAR model. By utilizing this method, behavioral interviewing techniques can be formed. Here is how the system breaks

occur?

- When did the issue take place?
- Why did you have to overcome the obstacle?

Ask yourself these questions during your pre-interview practice to develop stories to questions that will likely be asked.

### TASK

During this part of the story, you should discuss the outcome you desired and the steps you would attempt to achieve it. Explain any obstacles you expected to prevent you from completing the task.

### ACTION

Here is your chance to brag about the measures you took to obtain the result you needed. To show you are a team player, be sure to mention any efforts your co-workers made to help achieve the goal.

### RESULT

Your conclusion should express the outcome of the challenge you set forth to conquer. Be thorough when discussing how your actions directly contributed to the outcome. You should also reveal things you learned throughout the process. Make sure you have stories regarding both positive and negative results, as hiring managers will likely ask questions regarding both.

### SITUATION

When considering a situation to describe, research common interview questions for the industry in which you are applying. As an example, a collective inquiry is to discuss an obstacle you overcame in the workplace.

The situation aspect is typically made up of five factors to provide a clear story.

- Who was involved?
- What was the challenge?
- Where did the problem

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### HOT JOB PROFILE

**MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNSELORS** 2018 median pay: \$44,630 per year (21.46 per hour)

**Number of jobs in 2018:** 304,500

**Job outlook, 2018-28:** 22% (faster than average)

**Employment change, 2018-28:** 68,500

**The role:** Substance abuse, behavioral disorder and mental health counselors provide treatment and advise people who suffer from alcoholism, drug addiction or other mental or behavioral problems.

**Education required:** Most positions require at least a

bachelor's degree. Although educational requirements can vary from a high school diploma and certification to a master's degree for substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors, a master's degree and an internship is typically required to become a mental health counselor.

**The need:** Employment growth is expected as people continue to seek addiction and mental health counseling.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## AD SPACE