How to ACE your interview

Mitch Davis
Hello!
I am Mitch Davis

President - Husky Game Development Enterprise
President - Association for Computing Machinery
Coach - Computer Science Learning Center

www.MitchHelp.me
How to Interview
How to Interview

How to get an interview
Be yourself!

Be confident!

Speak Clearly

Strong Resume

Be Memorable
1. **Go!**

Talk to companies before you HAVE to!
The Career Fair is **HARD!**

The Career Fair is **EASY!**

What’s the difference between these people?
2. Dress Well

“It’s not who you are, it’s what you wear”
3. Know who you're talking to!

Do research on the company first!
Have a plan of attack!

http://career.mtu.edu/careerfair/fall2015/companies/
Everyone needs a programmer!

but not everyone wants a "programmer"

BE PROFESSIONAL
Ok, so you've got the interview

Now what?
Technical Questions

Most programming positions will have some sort of tech screen
There are two types of technical interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Software Company</th>
<th>Software Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Ford, Garmin, 3M, etc)</td>
<td>(Google, Palantir, Epic, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show an understanding of programming concepts and data structures</td>
<td>Show an understanding of optimization, efficiency, and complex problem solving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interview Question!

Given a string, how would you write a program to count the distinct number of letters in it?

Eg “Cool” has 3 (“C”, ”o”, ”l”)
Interview Question!

What are they really looking for?

Do you understand the problem?
Could you solve simple cases manually?

Did you recognize Edge Cases (special conditions)
Do “E” and “e” count as the same letter?

What approach are you taking?
Are you using an array, a hash map, etc?
Interview Question!

Write a program that can print off the steps to change one string to another by switching two letters at a time.

Example: mug → gum:
- mug
- mgu
- gmu
- gum
Interview Question!

What are they really looking for?

The best approach!
Can you solve it... efficiently?

Edge Cases!
What if I gave you “cool” → “cool”?
Interview Question!

Write a program that can sort numbers

Example:

8 6 7 5 3 0 9
0 3 5 6 7 8 9
Interview Question!
What are they really looking for?

Knowledge of algorithms
Less emphasis on problem solving, more on experience

Similar Problems:
Write a Linked List, Write a Cache, etc.
Whiteboard Problems

Write a program by hand, and explain why you are doing what you’re doing
How to practice

What can you do beforehand to help with technical interviews?
Ways to Practice

MORE INTERVIEWS!
The more you do, the more comfortable you will be!

Take Notes!
Interviews are testing what you learned in the classroom! Pay attention! (Especially in Data Structures)

Programming competitions!
Put your knowledge to use to solve programming puzzles. Often VERY similar to interview questions.
"NO"
Thanks!

Any questions?

My contact info is on: www.MitchHelp.me
HOW TO make
VIDEO GAMES

No programming experience needed!

www.MitchHelp.me