Exercise - Tool #9: Preparing for an Interview

The best preparation for an interview is practice! You have already identified your skills (your well-developed bullet points) and listed some of your experiences (your "Show it" stories), and an interview is the place where you can really highlight these in detail.

Although you will not know for sure what questions you will be asked in an interview, there are some common types of questions you can prepare for by thinking through your responses and saying them out loud. Use the space below to write down notes about how you might answer the samples interview questions from the section above along with the additional questions below based on your bullet points and stories, and then have a friend ask you the questions so you can practice responding verbally.

Opening Questions

Tell me about yourself (remember your elevator speech, Tool #4!).

Why are you interested in this position (and/or working for this company/organization)?

What would you bring to this position?

Skills Questions

Describe your experience with (relevant software/equipment/subject matter). What have you used it for?

What skills would you bring to this position/company/organization?

Describe the most challenging written technical report or presentation that you have had to complete.

Give me an example of a time when you applied analytical techniques to define a problem and come up with a solution.

What are you doing to stay up-to-date with the latest technology?

Tell us about a time when you used your engineering skills to solve a real-life problem.

Don't forget to schedule mock interviews with professions, alumni, and your career professionals on campus.

Practice a few replies here: