

## STAR METHOD

Not being prepared for common behavioral questions can make your answers long-winded, disjointed, and unclear. Preparing for these questions can help keep your answers clear and brief. To prepare, you want to reflect on your past experiences and develop stories (whether related to work history, academic or personal projects, student involvement, etc) to describe how they relate to the skills required for the position.

One way to organize these stories is to use the STAR Method.

- Situation/Task
- Action
- Results
- So, review the job description. What skills/competencies are required for this position? How do these relate to your experience listed on your resume, meaning your classes, academic projects, previous experience?
- Develop your stories based on your experiences; frame them within the **situation, action, results** methodology. This will help you stay on track and avoid tangents. What did you do? What skills did you use? What was the result?

## “TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF”- BE PREPARED TO BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE YOUR BACKGROUND TO EMPLOYERS

Your preparation should include the following:

### 1. Brief statement about yourself

- University Degree, Major, GPA-optional
- Professional/Career interests
- Extracurricular activities (Leadership/involvement in Student Organizations-IEEE, SWE, etc.)

### 2. Work experience/accomplishments

- Related coursework and projects
- Related internships/ work experience

### 3. Why this job/this company?

- Why you are interested
- Skills you can bring
- Why you are the best person to hire
- What you know about the company

Possible Interview questions:

- Tell me about the most challenging engineering/computer science project that you have been involved with during past year.
- Briefly, would you summarize your work history & education for me?

- What job related skills have you developed?
- Describe for me your more significant leadership experience.
- How do you approach a technical problem? Give an example.
- Describe for me your typical participation in a team setting.