

Book Review for Interview Prep Playbook by Richard Blazevidh
Review written by college sophomore from University of Texas, Dallas Campus

Key Take-Aways

Interview Groups:

- The concept of an interview group was something that I had neither thought of nor been taught before. The idea of coming together with a few of my peers to work on our resumes, research jobs, and practice interviewing skills is fascinating to me; up to this point I had mainly turned to my friends for the occasional feedback on an application rather than collaborating.
- By converting it into a group effort, we are able to capitalize on our strengths and overcome our weaknesses together. In fact, after reading this book I contacted a few of my friends and we have started an interview group.

The Importance of Strategy:

- Being strategic and intentional in working towards my professional goals within my desired industry was another key point. By paying attention to the job descriptions of the career path I have chosen, I ensure that I am pursuing a career that I am truly passionate about and fit for.
- Through strategically seeking out people within my network, I can find connections who may be able to help me in my journey.
- The list of prioritized employers and the interview schedule will not only keep me on track but make my search and interactions with recruiters more deliberate.

Interview Questions:

- The breakdown of the interview questions into Opening, Fit, and Case as well as the strategies to answer each one was also very helpful. Previously going into interviews, I had done a general preparation for the questions I knew would be asked, but I did not have a specific idea of what the interviewer was looking for and how I should best answer it to showcase my abilities.
- The acronyms for both the Case and Fit questions, P.E.N. and S.T.A.R respectively, were very useful as it succinctly captured the most important concepts to emphasize on. I had seen the S.T.A.R. framework at my school's career center, however it was in the context of resume description. Through the book I realized that it was also applicable in answering Fit questions.
- The Case questions were the most intimidating to me as I had only encountered these a few times. Reading through Jim's responses and the example case questions gave me a better idea on how to approach them in the future.

What I Especially Liked:

- The interview group was my favorite strategy from the book. I find that I am able to fully understand concepts best when I explain it to other people, and through the process of teaching my friends the interviewing tactics and key issues to target, everything slowly came together. I enjoy collaborating with my friends as we push each other to improve our skills while working towards our professional goals.
- By learning the types of interview questions that are asked, I am now aware of what to expect. Aided by the specific, structured methods of answering them, I can organize my thoughts and experiences in a way that would best showcase how I am a better choice than the other applicants for that position.
- Another part of the book which I really enjoyed was the integration of the storyline throughout the chapters. It made the strategies which were explained at the beginning of the chapter more tangible, especially as I related to Jim and his struggle at the beginning of the book. I hope that by continually working on these tips and practicing my skills, I will be as successful as Jim was at the end of the book.
- I found the worksheets which were included at the end of the book a good structure and basis for me to build on.