

Practice Job Interview.

Reflection – Practice Job Interview

I have never had to write a resume to apply for a job before. I am originally from Brazil, where public positions are typically decided through a public service exam. Given equal qualifications, the person with the highest score earns the position. Because of that system, interviews were never part of my professional experience. After moving to the United States, I initially worked with family members and later started my own business in 2000. Since then, I have been self-employed.

Because of this background, interviews are a mix of unfamiliarity and discomfort for me. I have been working since I was eleven years old and have experience in many different areas, but the idea of asking for a job feels unnatural. As an autistic person, hierarchical structures are also difficult for me to fully accept. I do not see myself as superior to others, but I also do not naturally view others as having authority over me. This affects how I perceive the interview dynamic. My confidence can vary significantly depending on the situation, the environment, and how the interaction unfolds.

The mock interview we conducted in class felt relatively low-pressure because it was a simulated exercise without real consequences. However, I do believe that practicing common interview questions is helpful. Repetition allows me to organize my thoughts, identify patterns in the questions, and develop more structured responses. With more time and practice, I would likely become more comfortable with the process.

The questions that feel easier to answer are those focused on past experiences, such as describing work history or discussing challenges that have been addressed. Having a wide range of real-life experiences made those responses more natural. In contrast, more abstract or forward-looking questions, such as projecting where one might be in five years, were more difficult. These types of questions require a level of projection and simplification that does not always align with how I naturally approach thinking and planning.

Overall, I think this assignment was a useful experience, even with its limitations. Due to time constraints, it is not possible to fully replicate the depth and pressure of a real interview process in a classroom setting. Real preparation would require months of refinement and repeated exposure. However, one of the most valuable aspects of this assignment was creating a professional resume on Indeed. That process forced me to reflect on my work history, organize my experiences, and present them in a structured and professional way.

Even though the mock interview was not entirely realistic, it helped me identify areas where I need improvement and gave me a starting point for developing interview skills that I have not needed before in my life.

One limitation of the mock interview became clear in terms of realism. In a real interview setting, even if the interviewer is not a technical expert, they typically have a general understanding of the role and what the company is looking for. In contrast, a classroom setting can create situations where there is a gap between the level of experience associated with the position and the perspective from which questions are asked. This can affect the depth and context of the discussion, particularly for roles that require significant prior experience. While this did not prevent the activity from being useful, it did highlight some of the challenges in fully replicating real-world interview conditions.