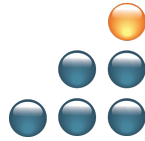




Shownotes - Interviewing Series
Bonus #1 - How to Handle the Interview Weakness
Question



[Blog Post]

Mark recently blogged about the crazy advice being given - by the Wall Street Journal! - about how to handle the perennial interviewing question, "Tell me about a weakness." He was stunned by how lame some of the suggestions were, as well as the implication that a clever interviewee could trick the interviewing manager into accepting a non-responsive answer. We think it's funny how many folks think that "they" can fool "their" interviewer, but of course, if "they" were the one "interviewing", why, "that would be different.

Yeah right.

In this cast, we share one of the best interviewing answer templates you'll ever hear. It's simple, elegant, easy to deliver, and surprise, surprise: **it directly answers the question.**

[Cast]

One of our core issues in interviewing is to answer the question. No matter what you want to tell the interviewer, answer THEIR question first. If you feel compelled to add something, that's okay... but by gosh, whack us on the forehead with your answer right up front. BLUF [Bottom Line Up Front].

In the Wall Street Journal "advice," one of the ideas was to give a weakness that could be a strength - come on, we're just not STUPID. Cite a corrected weakness... uhh, that wouldn't be a weakness anymore, right? Another theory was, "deflect" which we couldn't even bring ourselves to read... And then also, "address the unspoken question." Uhhh. NO. Address the spoken one.

But ENOUGH. How DO we answer this question effectively?