

CASE INTERVIEW TIPS

FOR CONSULTING AND FINANCE INTERVIEWS

Case interviews offer the opportunity to showcase your ability to think analytically, communicate clearly, and demonstrate organization skills. They are based around an extended question, or case, similar to the projects you would encounter in a consulting or finance position. Below are a few tips and resources to guide you in preparing for a case interview.

HAVE A PLAN OF ATTACK

Read books and online guides to case interviewing. These will give you an idea of the types of questions you're likely to be asked, as well as strategies for tackling them in a methodical way during the interview. We highly recommend the book *Case in Point* by Marc Cosentino. There are two copies in the Career Center Library. You can also view and download the useful Vault guide to case interviews, accessible through the Career Center website. (Career Center Website > Career Exploration > Exploring Different Fields.)

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Get to know the company you're interviewing with. Look at its web site, read press releases, and do some searches on Google News or LexisNexis. This research will give you a sense of what specific services the company provides (and therefore what kinds of cases you'll likely encounter) as well as the company's recent successes, challenges, and changes. Furthermore, many larger companies actually provide tailored advice about case interviews on their websites; if yours does, the page will help you understand the company's approach to interviewing.

GET A FEEL FOR CASES

Read sample cases in case interview books and online guides. These will give you a flavor of the types of questions you're likely to be asked. The books mentioned above both include several sample cases, as do many online guides. Additionally, company websites provide useful sample cases and video samples—these can be useful resources even if you're not interviewing with the specific company in question. We have found the websites of Oliver Wyman and McKinsey to be particularly useful.

PRACTICE!

Talk to others who have been through case interviews, and ask if they would be willing to help you with a mock interview. *Case in Point* has a "roommate's guide" which gives you sample cases and a way for a friend to help you prepare by working through these cases with you. You can also search the alumni database for recent graduates who have worked at the company you're interviewing with. They will probably be happy to offer some advice about how to navigate the interview process and what sorts of cases you're likely to get.

RELAX AND TRY TO HAVE FUN

A successful case interview demonstrates not only your reasoning skills and organization, but also your personality and demeanor. Keep your cool, ask questions along the way, and pay attention to cues from your interviewer. Above all, think of the case interview as a conversation, rather than a test. Remember: the process is more important than finding the "right" answer, so relax, smile, and enjoy the experience!