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This is Eastern Michigan University's *Career Corner*, hosted by the Career coaches of the University Advising and Career Development Center. And welcome to Season 4, *Career FAQ*.

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Welcome back to the *Career Corner Podcast* and our incredible series, *Career FAQ*, where each episode, we tackle some of the most common concerns we hear from our students every day in appointments. This is Career Coach Logann Dolan back with another episode. And today, we're hitting a very common concern for students who are in the job search process and are starting to go through interviews. And that is how to address the "tell me about yourself" question. Now, I can almost guarantee that some form of this question is going to be asked in an interview you have, which is why it's super important to knock this question out of the park every single time you're faced with it.

But before we dive into how to answer this question, I'm going to let you in on a little secret. Employers don't actually want to know your life story when they ask this question. Although you may have three dogs and two goldfish and a hamster named Buddy and 12 siblings, and your favorite color is purple, and you love watching Netflix, hiring managers and employers could care less about any of this. Not to say that these things aren't important or that they don't matter, because they absolutely still make up who we are, employers and those in the interview want to know about you in the terms of your professionalism, the value that you bring to the table, and how you're a good fit for the position.

So with that being said, an easy way to formulate a really solid answer to the dreaded "tell me about yourself" question is to break it up into three parts-- your past, your present, and your future. For your past, you want to highlight any of your past experiences, training, certifications, or transferable skills that relate to the position. For your present, you want to talk about what you're doing right now, including your education here at Eastern and maybe how that relates to the position.

For your future, talk about what inspires you, what you're passionate about related to this industry, and why you're interested in the company, or why you're even interested in this role. So just like you should be tailoring your resume and your cover letter to every job you apply for, you should definitely be doing the same thing for the answers to this question.

So let me give you an example. Let's pretend that I'm a graduating senior in the College of Arts and Sciences here at Eastern, majoring in Art, and I'm interested in pursuing an entry level graphic communications position at BuzzFeed within their Social Channels Department.

So if I were asked the "tell me about yourself" question in an interview, I might say something like this. "My name is Logann Dolan. I'm a graduating senior at Eastern Michigan University majoring in Art with a minor in Graphic Communication. I have experience as a freelance designer working with a variety of graphic design softwares, including Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop and Canva Design Center. I also have a few years of videography experience working with Vimeo, Adobe Premiere, and Pinnacle.

Currently, I work for EMU's Campus Communications Division, where I create engaging social media posts, stories, and website content that is shared across all social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and TikTok. I'm very eager and excited for the opportunity to continue using my strong graphic communication skills and experiences if I were to transition into this role at BuzzFeed." So something simple like this is clearly outlining what I'm bringing to the table and what value I'm providing to the hiring manager and employer.

A really great resource to help you practice this question is Quinncia. You may have heard us talk about Quinncia in another episode in regards to resumes, but Quinncia actually has a built-in AI program called Quinn that allows you to practice virtual interviewing. After the practice interview with Quinn, she'll give you in-depth feedback on how to improve your interviewing skills for next time. So you can access Quinncia by going to www.quinncia.io.

We also have the option for you to meet with a career staff member for a mock interview. You can make an appointment with any of us on Handshake at app.joinhandshake.com, or by calling our office at 734-487-0400.

As always, Eagles, stay safe, stay healthy, and we'll see you on the next episode.

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