As the Tommie Searches

Episode 05: Mock Interview Inspiration

Cast
NARRATOR
TOMMIE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER COUNSELOR

Script

NARRATOR: [Radio show narrator voice] “As the Tommie Searches: Episode 5, Mock Interview Inspiration.”

[Cue Theme Music]

NARRATOR: When we had last left Tommie, he had blown his first phone interview. After getting some advice from his roommate, he considered the possibility of making an appointment with the Career Development Center to receive interview tips as well as practicing his skills with a mock interview. Today, we join him as he finally decides to call the Career Development Center.

TOMMIE: [Dials the number into his phone while saying the numbers out loud, phone beeps as each number is pressed] 6... 5... 1... 9... 6... 2... 6... 7... 6... 1. [Pauses while phone rings] ... Hi! I’d like to make an appointment with one of your Career Development Center counselors. Do you have anything open for tomorrow? [Pauses] Ten a.m.? Sounds good. Thanks! [Hangs up]

NARRATOR: The day passes by slowly for Tommie, the appointment with the Career Development Center always being on his mind. We join him again the next day as he makes his way to the first floor of the Murray-Herrick Campus Center and finds himself inside the office of one of the friendly counselors.

COUNSELOR: So you must be Tommie! What can I help you with today?

TOMMIE: Well, I’ve got an interview coming up for an internship and I want to do a mock interview with you. I’ve read some of your online sources, so I think the mock interview is a great way to prepare. I even brought copies of my resume and cover letter along, like the website recommends.
COUNSELOR: That sounds great! Before we start, let me give you a few pointers so you can try to use them in the mock interview.

TOMMIE: Okay, sounds great!

COUNSELOR: Often in interviews, an employer will ask a question that encourages the candidate to tell a story about a past accomplishment. By doing this, it gives them an idea of the possibility of the candidates’ future success. One of the techniques you want for this type of questioning to use is CAR—C, A, R, which stands for Context, Action, and Result. Before you even go to the interview, you want to identify three-to-five skills that you have that would be valuable for the position, and think of relevant experiences you’ve had that use those skills. When you’re in the interview and this type of question is asked, you want to briefly give them the context of the situation, the action you took, and what the results were. It doesn’t have to be something amazing—even a story about how you contributed during a group project can become a strong CAR story!

TOMMIE: That sounds awesome! I’ll try it out!

COUNSELOR: Good! Then let’s begin the interview. Go out of my office and come back in, as if you were meeting me for the first time.

NARRATOR: Tommie enters the counselor-turned-interviewer’s office, beginning his mock interview. He remembers to firmly shake the interviewer’s hand and maintain eye contact, but stumbles over his answers a few times during the interview. After the mock interview ends, the counselor gives Tommie some more advice.

COUNSELOR: This is why it’s good to practice! You did a good job with shaking my hand and greeting me, but you were clearly nervous and had trouble answering a few times. I’d recommend working on your CAR technique and getting a few stories ready for it before your next interview.

TOMMIE: Yeah, it was kind of hard coming up with all of that on the spot.

COUNSELOR: You also need to sound confident, even if you’re nervous. That impresses employers a lot. So, remember: CAR and confidence. Oh, and one more thing: to make a better impression on the interviewer, write a thank you note to him or her as a follow-up to the interview. That’ll make a strong impression that you’re serious and interested in the position.

TOMMIE: Oh man, thanks! This is really going to help!

COUNSELOR: Good luck, Tommie!
NARRATOR: Will Tommie stay confident and make it through the real interview? Will he remember the valuable tips given to him by the counselor, including the **CAR** technique? Find out next time on “As the Tommie Searches” brought to you by the University of St. Thomas Career Development Center.

[Cue Music]