

Mod 3 Week 1: Professional Storytelling II: Resumes & Portfolios

If you will not be able to complete your journal this week, please provide an update for the Career Dev team on when you'll have it completed here (remember to reflect on what you have control over, what you want to try differently this week, and what habits you can utilize to get back on track):

1. Refine your career vision: What are the values that will drive your job search? What are your goals for your job search? What kind of role do you see yourself pursuing in your job search? Based on your latest version of your career vision, list the top 3-5 industries and companies you'll pursue in your job search as of right now. Why did you pick these industries/companies? How do they relate to the values and goals you have for yourself in your job search?

I think it's okay to not have my career vision fully formed, but it is something I should continue to think about. It's easy to just get comfortable with being unhappy with your job and I don't want that to happen. It doesn't really matter if it takes a few months or longer to figure it out and even once I do, it will change at some point.

2. Build your resume
 - What will you emphasize in your resume that directly relates to your targeted industries?

My experience with helping customers navigate an e-commerce website. Collected and organized feedback from customers about user experience for the web development team.

- Pick a template from those listed in the Templates section [here](#)
- Order your content in this way:
- Header (Name + Software Developer OR Back End Engineer OR Front End Engineer, etc.)
- Contact info

- Summary
- Skills
- Projects
- Experience
- Education * Check out other resources [here](#) including the Resume Checklist *

Link to your resume or include a screenshot here:

3. Upload your resume to CV Compiler by following these steps:

- Go to <https://cvcompiler.com/students/turingschool>
- Click on “Improve Your Student Resume”
- Authorize it with either LinkedIn or GitHub
- Fill out the fields with your Name and Email and the promo code Turing2005
- Upload your resume
- Based on the feedback you received from CV Compiler, what updates will you make to your resume?

Add Unit Testing.

Use more action verbs (Apply, Architect, Assemble, Build, Code, Debug, Design, Devise, Engineer, Initiate, Investigate, Maintain, Overhaul, Program, Rebuild, Redesign, Reduce, Solve, Train, Upgrade, Utilize)

Add numbers.

Remove soft skills, i.e. use of the word committed.

4. Set up your Turing Alumni Portfolio:

- Log in with the link you got in your email. Going forward, log in at alumni.turing.io/user
- Fill out *all* fields

- Select “publish” before saving (projects must also have “published” selected)
- Reflection questions:
- What do you want this portfolio to say about you?

Focus on customer/user focused.

- How will you continue to add to this to portray your story and showcase the kind of work that demonstrates your brand?

Add projects and skills as they are completed/obtained.

5. Ian’s workshop this week is designed to help you break down your interest in specific industries even further by exploring their tech stacks to decide if you want to utilize any of their tools in upcoming projects. Make a copy of his [template here](#) and post a link to your copy here to show what research you’ve completed. You can also link this research to your Huntr board.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qXg6c-sKJdOvhzGnuWfuRAC25koltNC12bSmOqVd0A4/edit?usp=sharing>

Mod 3 Week 2: The Application Process

If you will not be able to complete your journal this week, please provide an update for the Career Dev team on when you’ll have it completed here (remember to reflect on what you have control over, what you want to try differently this week, and what habits you can utilize to get back on track):

1. Find a position or use a position you’ve put on your Huntr board and write a cover letter for that position in a Google doc or gist. Reference these [cover letter resources](#) as well as [the session](#) to complete your cover letter.

- Post the link to your cover letter here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-7iwjZUrJ6AwxybRMuWaRpwdanTTQ4oXAJReicJV4A8/edit?usp=sharing>

2. Review your cover letter with a peer some time this week. What feedback did your partner give you? What next steps will you take to make your cover letter even stronger?
3. If you were to apply to this position (and you should!), how will you customize your resume for it? What other next steps would you need to take here?

Mod 3 Week 3: Outreach & Networking II

Answer the below questions in a separate gist and link them into your career journal using this template:

Week 3: [Link here to your gist]

(completed)

(partially complete)

(not started)

If you will not be able to complete your journal this week, please provide an update for the Career Dev team on when you'll have it completed here (remember to reflect on what you have control over, what you want to try differently this week, and what habits you can utilize to get back on track):

1. Back to your resume and cover letter you've been working on:
 - What other next steps do you want to take to make these two components stronger?

Make a few updates to my resume. Keep practicing writing cover letters (which are so far my least favorite thing).

2. Outreach Brainstorming:

- Either explore the company you wrote a cover letter for or find a new company to explore this week; Go to their company LinkedIn page and start to explore the employees. Who are a couple people you could reach out to? Why?

Uplight. Three Turing grads work there: Nick Chambers, Jomah, Jeff Ruane.

3. Finalize Your Plan:

- Who have you decided to reach out to? Why that person? How will you contact them? What do you want to talk to them about? How will you follow up?

I reached out to all three of them.

4. Execute your plan:

- Reach out to your contact THIS WEEK. If possible, reach out to more than one person OR find a meetup to attend also. What happened? What did you learn about the company? What other next steps should you take for pursuing this company? Be sure to update this in Huntr.

I spoke to Nick and Jomah on a zoom call and messaged Jeff back and forth about a couple of questions I had about the company. It went really well and boosted my confidence about speaking with seasoned devs.

Mod 3 Week 4: Interview Prep

Answer the below questions in a separate gist and link them into your career journal using this template:

Week 4: [Link here to your gist]

(completed)

(partially complete)

(not started)

If you will not be able to complete your journal this week, please provide an update for the Career Dev team on when you'll have it completed here (remember to reflect on what you have control over, what you want to try differently this week, and what habits you can utilize to get back on track):

1. Prepare for Job Shadow: AEIOU

- Activities: what questions do you have about the activities that a software developer does on a daily basis?

How much time do you spend coding/reviewing/in meetings? Stand-ups, retros?

- Environment: what questions do you have about the overall environment and culture of this workplace?

Do people work pretty collaboratively or individually? Is there a mentorship program?

- Interactions: what questions do you have about the team at this company? What do you hope to see in your interactions during the shadow?

I'm hoping to see that there is a spirit of being helpful and supportive.

- Objects: what questions do you have about the code or the product?

How many customers do you have? Where are you building houses?

- Users: what questions do you have about how the company interacts with their users?

What medium do you use to interact with your customers?

2. After the Job Shadow, reflect on the same questions; what are your takeaways from the shadow?

- Activities: what was engaging to the person/people you shadowed?

That we had a lot of in depth questions. That we were eager to learn and see more.

- Environment: what did you notice about how they talked about the culture and environment of this company?

They are very supportive and kind of laid back/trusting of their employees. They value code review and write a lot of comments on PR's.

- Interactions: what did you notice about your interactions with this person/people?

They were very kind and never made me feel like I was below them in any way.

- Objects: what did you learn about their approach to code and/or product development?

They use a lot of different technologies above and beyond their stack. React, TypeScript, Webstorm, Apollo, Figma, Jira Kanban, AWS, etc.

- Users: what did you learn about their approach to their users?

Their users are often going through a difficult and sensitive time because they've lost their house. They have to be sensitive with customers who would rather have not had their house burn down in the first place than get this super awesome amazing new house. Also, they want to empower customers to make decisions quicker and more confidently.

- What are your main takeaways from the shadow? How will you use this information to help you with your job search strategy?

My main takeaway is feeling more confident about speaking with devs and asking questions.

3. Interview Prep: *****

- Pick a successful project and write about it with the STAR method (What was the situation/scenario of the project? What was the task/target of the project? What action steps did you take? What were the results?):
- *Bad Movie Project:*
- *S: This project was done during Module 3 of the Front-End Engineering program at Turing School of Software and Design.*
- *T: For this project, we were tasked with creating an application for a user to browse, rate, and favorite movies. A user can login, click on a movie to see details of the movie, rate the movie, and add the movie to their favorite's list.*
- *A: We used React and Router to develop this application.*
- *R: We created the application.*
 - Write about a time you failed and what you learned from that experience:
- *Bundle Baby Shop*
 - Write about how you've approached working with a team using a specific example:
- *DTR*
 - What other stories will you prepare to share?
- *Idk. TTS Customer Service Team*
 - Do some research into your top companies' tech stacks; what do you already know? What can you compare to your own learning? What do you need to learn more about?
- *ReCharge*
- *Uplight*

- Using this [interview prep resource doc](#), pick out at least 3 resources you will use to prepare for interviews as well as 3 behavioral questions you could practice:
- *Resources:*
 - <https://techinterview.guide/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXohtMcPT6I>
 - <https://yangshun.github.io/tech-interview-handbook/cheatsheet/>
- *Behavioral Questions: I want to film myself (literal torture but I think it will prepare me well) answering these questions*
 - *Tell me about yourself. Why do you want to be a software developer?*
 - *What is something that your hobbies or interests tell me about you that your resume cannot? (I hate these kinds of questions because I have no hobbies or interests)*
 - *How have you implemented or adapted agile practices in your projects? (I need to learn more about what agile is exactly)*
 - *Describe an example of how you have handled a stressful situation.*
 - *Have you ever had to switch gears in the middle of a project to get something fixed immediately? How did you react?*
 - *And so many more*

Mod 3 Week 5: Refining Your Strategy

Answer the below questions in a separate gist and link them into your career journal using this template:

Week 5: [Link here to your gist]

(completed)

(partially complete)

(not started)

If you will not be able to complete your journal this week, please provide an update for the Career Dev team on when you'll have it completed here (remember to reflect on what you have control over, what you want to try differently this week, and what habits you can utilize to get back on track):

1. Taking stock of where you are: what have you accomplished this module? What have you learned? Where are you stuck (have you not been able to follow through on outreach? Is your resume not finished?)?

This Mod, I have gotten my LinkedIn profile completed, added a ton of new connections (I'm up to about 85 and am aiming to get it over 100 by the end of intermission (by sending requests to all of the BE Mod 3 folks I'm not already connected with)). I've also created my Turing Alumni Portfolio and resume. Finally, I've spoken to four people at companies I'm interested in.

Where I've been stuck is writing a cover letter. I'm not sure why this has been such a challenge for me but it's definitely something I will work on over intermission.

I need to update my Turing Alumni Portfolio and resume with my most recent projects. And also get those projects deployed and add a couple things to my solo project!

2. Create plans for 3 different companies you want to target:
 - Questions to reflect on here: Why do you like this company? What makes you want to work there? Why are you a good fit for this company? What do you bring

to the company? What transferable skills do you have? What do you already know about the company (product, team, culture, company size, location, etc.)? What do you need to learn?

- Steps to take:
 - Outreach: look at the company's LinkedIn page: who could you reach out to? What questions do you want to ask that person?
 - Experience: once you've made a connection at the company, how could you find out more? Consider setting up a job shadow or exploring their tech stack in your projects
 - Read back over the plan. How does it reflect your vision?
 - Imagine that you get the job. A year later, what have you gained from this experience? How have you started to fulfill your vision?
 - Plan #1:
 - *Reach out to more people at ReCharge, specifically Software Engineers (I've spoken with their Manager of Customer Success Operations because we had a mutual connection) and recruiters.*
 - *Ask them if there would be an opportunity for me to do a job shadow.*
 - Plan #2:
 - *Try re-doing my solo project with Vue instead of React for companies that use Vue.*
 - Plan #3:
 - *Look into learning AWS or Salesforce or something more targeted like that.*
1. Make it actionable: rank each plan on a scale of 1-5 for how much your plan aligns with the following:

- 1) Available resources to help you pursue it: contacts, time, knowledge of the company, etc.
- 2) Coherence: how it aligns with your career vision
- 3) Confidence level: how feasible does this feel to you?
- 4) How excited are you about it?

	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4
Plan 1	5	5	5	5
Plan 2	3	4	3	3
Plan 3	2	?	1	1

Now, pick the plan with the highest numbers across the board. What steps will you take next to pursue this strategy as you go into the next module?

I'm going to reach out to a couple of people at ReCharge and try to set up phone calls with them. My solo project was inspired by ReCharge so I want to add a few things to the project (but will not use this as an excuse to delay reaching out to them because I can always just tell them about the things I'm planning to do next with the project and then share it with them once I've completed those things) and share the project with them and use it as a talking point to kind of ask them if that's the kind of things they work on.

Mod 4 Career Journal – Pre Work

Pre-work Requirements:

- Complete unfinished Mod 3 prompts
- Revise Resume/LinkedIn/Portfolio

Pick one of the options below to also complete during intermission:

Option 1

- Apply to 2 positions (spend 1 hour per application)
- Share cover letters/resume for those roles in your career journal

OPTION 1:

APPLIED TO JOB POSTING FOR React/Node/Postgres/AWS Developer AT Spire Digital

COVER LETTER:

Dear Development Team Hiring Manager,

Customers will tell you how they feel. You just have to listen. As a lead customer service representative for an e-commerce company, I had my finger on the pulse of user experience feedback and created an organizational and communication strategy that enabled the customer service team to collect, prioritize and pass along these details to the developers. It was thrilling to see the simple solutions deployed and the positive reaction from customers.

I was inspired to learn web development and enrolled at Turing School of Software and Design. Right away, I dove into projects developing responsive web pages and interfaces using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, and Redux. Furthermore, I learned how to connect these applications to back-end APIs. I am excited to use these skills at Spire Digital to produce functional and visually appealing digital products.

As a member of the Development Team at Spire Digital, I would use my organizational and communication skills to collaborate and seek out better solutions. I am a quick learner who is eager to take on new challenges and balance self-study with asking questions. I value efficiency, a user-centered approach and I am continually advancing my technical skills.

I have attached my resume and look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Nicole Latifi

Nicole.Latifi@gmail.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicole-latifi/>

<https://github.com/NicoleLatifi>

<https://alumni.turing.io/alumni/nicole-latifi>

RESUME:

11/9

Is there a difference between learning and memorizing?

- I think memorizing is part of learning. Memorizing is an important part of building up the fundamentals (i.e. syntax). But, of course, there is a lot more to learning.

How do you know when you have learned something?

- Sometimes, you know that you've learned something when you can implement it and use it to solve a problem.

What advice would you give your past self of Day 1 of Turing?

- One thing I wish I would have done is keep track of some of the problems I came across and how I solved them. This way I would have a log of examples that showcase my problem solving abilities. I remember situations but I don't remember the details.

Choose a Mod1 project and a Mod2 project. Reflect on the following:

Thinking back to Day1 of Mod0, if someone asked you to complete this project, would you have been able to?

- SJ: No, I would not have been able to because I would have no idea where to start with the file structure. I could have figured out a couple of simple functions from looking up how to do them, but I wouldn't know how to set up the project as a whole.

Given this same project today, how long would you need to complete it (either solo or in a group)?

- SJ: Probably half as much time. Or if I used React much much less time.

What advice would you give someone who has just been assigned this project?

- SJ: Read the instructions for the architecture very carefully. The project spec tells you what to do. And I remember talking to a few other students that struggled with this.

Would you be able to teach someone the skills needed to complete this project? If yes, how would you do so?

- SJ: Yes.

How we've helped each other?

What did you learn from another student (not an instructor)?

- Git workflow stuff. Git hooks.

What did you teach to someone else (student or instructor)?

- Helped Elle with some CSS stuff. Dev tools.

Thinking back to your GearUp discussions, what is one thing you have learned that you would like to continue learning about?

- The main thing I learned was how to present material in an appealing way that grabs the audience's attention. I liked our topic, but it was something my partner was much more passionate about and the main thing I got excited with the presentation was trying to make it as interesting to the audience as possible.

You Have 7+ Months of Experience

Who do you want to be on your team? What contributions, code and no-code, can you make?

- Clutch. Reliable. "go-to resource for their areas of responsibility and share their knowledge and learn with teammates"

What strategies will you use when you're asked to tackle something you have never encountered before?

- Break it down into smaller pieces. Identify where to start. Communicate if I need a little bit of time alone to do some solo research.

What is one way you can give back to your community?

- Support other people, perhaps single moms, that want to get into software development through mentorship and possibly financial support.