

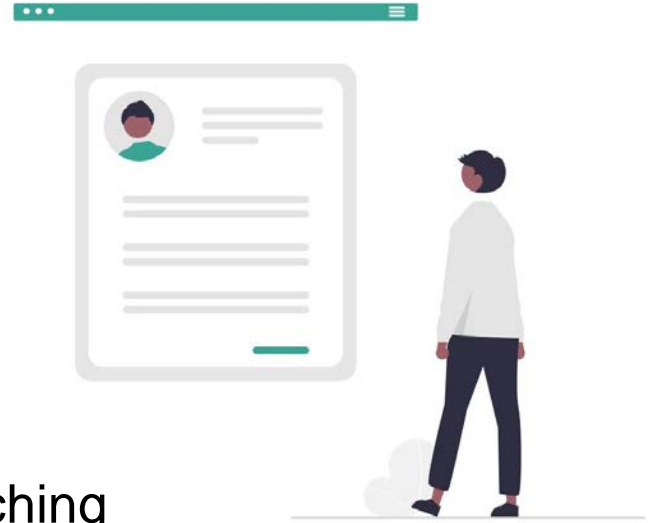
Leveraging your teaching experience for the future

How to market your skills as a TA across a variety of different contexts

Learning Goals:

After today's session you should be able to...

- 1) Identify transferable skills learned in teaching
- 2) Illustrate the value of these skills by describing action and impact



What transferable skills do TAs have?

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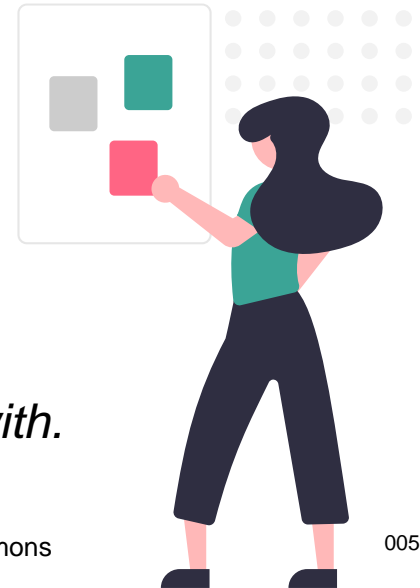
1. Communication skills
2. Presentation and facilitation skills
3. Organizational skills
4. Feedback and evaluation skills
5. Critical thinking skills
6. Leadership and mentoring skills
7. Management and supervision skills
8. Creativity and innovation skills
9. Listening and reflection skills
10. Learning skills

Brainstorming concrete examples

Brainstorm at least **two** ideas related to the common interview prompts below that demonstrate some of the skills you have learned as a TA. Describe the moment as clearly as you can and reflect on which of your strengths contributed to your success.

Share an example of...

- *a challenge you faced. How did you resolve it?*
- *a mistake you made. How did you handle it?*
- *a goal you set. How did you achieve it?*
- *how you worked on a team.*
- *how you were able to motivate the people you work with.*
- *how you worked effectively under pressure.*



Interview and storytelling exercise

Pick one prompt and share your story with a partner. Each person will have the opportunity to act as both speaker and interviewer.

Step 1: The **interviewer** invites the speaker to respond to the question, taking note of any particular strengths and skills that the story highlights. The interviewer may ask additional questions to help draw these out.

Step 2: After the speaker has finished, the **interviewer** reflects the stories back to the **speaker**, noting particular words or phrases that helped identify the speaker's strengths and skills.

What themes or skills did you identify?

Interview technique: STAR stories



Situation

An event, project or challenge you faced



Task

Your responsibilities and assignments for the situation



Action

Steps taken to relieve or rectify the situation



Result

Impact of actions taken

Tell me about a time you handled a challenge. How did you resolve it? **Skills = leadership, learning, innovation**

Situation: *Students who were sick or in quarantine during the semester did not have a way to attend weekly problem-solving sessions (recitations) for the class.*

Task: *I was asked by the course instructor to teach a hybrid recitation that would allow students to attend online and in person.*

Action: *I sought out the appropriate technology and training, including learning how to use a tablet to teach. I tested out the equipment ahead of time, and sought feedback from the students in my section to make sure they felt comfortable participating in the hybrid format.*

Result: *My students appreciated my efforts to include them in the course even though they could not attend in person, and I received very good evaluations from my students (Overall score 6.8/7). My actions promoted both inclusion and accessibility of resources for students who would otherwise have been excluded.*

Write your own STAR story

Creating a more comprehensive picture of your skills



Situation

An event, project or challenge you faced



Task

Your responsibilities and assignments for the situation



Action

Steps taken to relieve or rectify the situation



Result

Impact of actions taken

Turn your STAR story into a resume bullet

Resumes bullets aren't just about what you did!

They should communicate both **action** and **impact**.

- Tell your STAR story, emphasizing the result
- Start with an action verb
- Examples:
 - Developed comprehensive review sessions and moderated an online discussion forum to offer more opportunities for questions and review.
 - Collaborated with a team of faculty and teaching assistants in an advanced undergraduate biology course to create a series of assessments that gauge student learning.

Exit Ticket:

+ What is one thing you are taking away today's discussion?

Δ Is there anything you still have questions about?

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