

Respondent

< 196 Roxanne Trabajar >

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Time to complete

1. If anything was possible, what would your dream job be, and why? *

If anything was possible and I have all the means in the world, I would have jumped on the path to be an astrophysicist and work at NASA. As a child, I have always been mesmerized by the wonders our universe could offer, and since I always thirst for knowledge, studying the biggest unknown in humanity would be the peak of my life. Being an astrophysicist enables you the chance to be an astronaut and travel in space. I sometimes would think about how it would feel to bring the Philippine flag to the moon or see the Earth in size as small as your palm. Not only that, since I specialized in sciences before, I envisioned myself doing continuous research on new compounds or materials brought over from heavenly bodies. Poring over the microscope and exclaiming 'eureka' has somewhat a nice ring and it is a humorous thought that I keep to myself. With that, it'll seem to cement your name in the history of the world, right? But that's it, just a dream job.

2. Have you ever experienced a stressful situation in your past work place (college if fresh grad), what was it and how did you overcome it? *

Work is not always a flowery path; one needs to work hard to reach what one wanted. Before I applied here in Pathcutters, I work for the IT industry as a developer. I was on a work-from-home setup and on a mid-shift. Staying in one room with the same four walls staring at you for 10 hours was all right at first, but as days went by, it was taxing. When it was too much, I decided it was time for a breather. I contacted my friends and we decided on a date and went on a vacation. It was a holiday and I remembered I had a good time. After that, I got refreshed and ready again for a hectic time. I guess with any stressful situation I was in, I will just tell myself that the weekend is near, you can sleep in by then and you can eat anything you want.

3. In your previous position, what task did you find most challenging and why? *

Since I was not an IT graduate, I studied an engineering course in college, I found that learning about a new language is pretty challenging based on my previous work experiences. It does become tolerable and enjoyable over time. What's most challenging though is filling in the shoes of another developer or programmer. The solution or code is already existing and you have to change something in that written code or write additional

lines to add functions on a system through that. I used to have experience of going through somebody's existing work written back when the company did not have any standards yet, I remember going through years-old code. You have to figure what rules they used because it was different from what you were trained on. After that, you have to navigate again to add your changes, taking note to update their work to meet the company standards.

4. In your previous position, what task did you enjoy most and why? *

I would say that I enjoyed the task of organization in my previous jobs. One of them would be creating the pre-documentation of my work. The process of developing new systems includes gathering requirements from the client or clients. I would attend meetings, usually with my team leader or manager, to get the specifics about the project. I would then proceed to create a document to summarize everything about a project. Since the document is shared within different groups and teams, from the business owners to the quality team, I have to make sure that the wordings I used are general and easy to understand. Also, in doing my main tasks, standards should be conformed as people will read through my work in the future. I always get carried away and make sure everything is neat as a courtesy to people reviewing my work and those people who will work on it someday. A mentor once told me that I should take into consideration people reading my work, so I always keep in my mind that my work is easy to understand with correct tags and descriptions.

5. How would your previous managers/coworkers describe you? *

What my previous managers would describe is what got me thinking I could try the VA industry. My previous managers would always commend me on my documents or how I write my codes. They always would tell me I do it very specific, complete, and easy to understand. An example would be in writing descriptions and comments for every line of code. Another would be in writing out the process of a certain function of a system, which is used in pre-development documentation. I also used to create a few tutorial videos for the internal team, and the script I made created no qualms from the reviewer. With my recent team leader, when I was transferring my tasks to my replacement, he kept mentioning that the replacement will have no problem figuring out my code since it was organized and everything was labeled accordingly. One of the team also once made me present to the client since my team leader was on sick leave and I had to fill in the role, and I got nice feedback that I did speak (since the clients are English speaking) and presented well.

6. What personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of? *

I might say two accomplishments that I'm most proud of. The biggest one is passing the engineering board exam and becoming an engineer. It isn't the course I first chose to study and I spent five years (and more) in doubt if it was for me. The fact that I have uncles and

aunts who were engineers also added to the pressure when it was finally time to take the exam. The whole 6-month review was filled with uncertainties but I made it and made my parents very happy. Second, is the fact that I have co-authored two research papers in my life. It's an accomplishment because writing is a passion of mine but I'm not good at journalism. So I channel my energy to technical writing and I believe I succeeded in some ways in the field. My first research paper was written in 2008 and published in 2009. It even got in two national science fair competitions which earned my group an award. The second paper was published in 2018 and although it did not get any award, I am always proud of that 100+ pages of hard work me and my group poured into it.