

Your “Elevator pitch”

20 MAY 2016



An Elevator Pitch

A short summary used to quickly and simply define a process, product, service, organization, or event and its value proposition

Comes from the situation where you bump into someone in a lift and have to get your story across in the time before the doors open again

Approximately thirty seconds to two minutes

Where would you use it?

Job fair

Networking meeting

Social setting

Trade show

Wherever someone asks you “what do you do?”

- It may prompt another connection

Your Key Messages

What do you want someone to remember about you?

Help them quickly understand who you are and what you can do

Could include

- Skills
- Experience
- What you are looking for

Ideally need a clear point that each part fo the pitch supports

What to include

Think about how you would complete these sentences

I am a

I have done

I want to

I am interested in

I am someone who

One approach is a two breath message

*“I want to do a job that allows me to do A and B and C
... in an organisation that is doing X and Y and Z”*

A, B and C are the motivated skills – the things you do best

X, Y and Z are the field and style of the organisation you want to work for

Works much better than job titles

Delivery

Should feel natural to you

- Use your own words
- Avoid CV speak

You will need say it out loud

Can refine with practice – pay attention to the reactions

Exercise

Try out you pitch

Examples: “I am someone who...”

“can adapt to any situation. I thrive in a fluctuating environment and I transform unexpected obstacles into stepping stones for achievements.”

“consistently innovates to create value. I find opportunities where other people see none: I turn ideas into projects, and projects into serial success.”

“has a very creative mind. I always have a unique perspective when approaching an issue due to my broad range of interests and hobbies. Creativity is the source of differentiation and therefore, at the root of competitive advantage.”

“always has an eye on my target. I endeavour to deliver high-quality work on time, every time. Hiring me is the only real guarantee for results.”

“knows this job inside and out. With many years of relevant experience, there is no question whether I will be efficient on the job. I can bring the best practices to the company.”

“has a high level of motivation to work here. I have studied the entire company history and observed its business strategies. Since I am also a long-time customer, I took the opportunity to write this report with some suggestions for how to improve your services.”

“has a pragmatic approach to things. I don’t waste time talking about theory or the latest buzz words of the bullshit bingo. Only one question matters to me: ‘Does it work or not?’”

“takes work ethics very seriously. I do what I am paid for, and I do it well.”

Examples: “I am someone who...”

“can make decisions rapidly if needed. Everybody can make good decisions with sufficient time and information. The reality of our domain is different. Even with time pressure and high stakes, we need to move forward by taking charge and being decisive. I can do that.”

“is considered to be ‘fun.’ I believe that we are way more productive when we are working with people with which we enjoy spending time. When the situation gets tough with a customer, a touch of humour can save the day.”

“works as a real team-player. I bring the best out of the people I work with and I always do what I think is best for the company.”

“is completely autonomous. I won’t need to be micromanaged. I won’t need to be trained. I understand high-level targets and I know how to achieve them.”

“leads people. I can unite people around a vision and motivate a team to excellence. I expect no more from the others than what I expect from myself.”

“understands the complexity of advanced project management. It’s not just pushing triangles on a GANTT chart; it’s about getting everyone to sit down together and to agree on the way forward. And that’s a lot more complicated than it sounds.”

Examples: “I am someone who...”

“is the absolute expert in the field. Ask anybody in the industry. My name is on their lips because I wrote THE book on the subject.”

“communicates extensively. Good, bad or ugly, I believe that open communication is the most important factor to reach an efficient organization.”

“works enthusiastically. I have enough motivation for myself and my department. I love what I do, and it’s contagious.”

“has an eye for details because details matter the most. How many companies have failed because of just one tiny detail? Hire me and you’ll be sure I’ll find that detail.”

“can see the big picture. Beginners waste time solving minor issues. I understand the purpose of our company, tackle the real subjects and the top management will eventually notice it.”

“is not like anyone you know. I am the candidate you would not expect. You can hire a corporate clone, or you can hire someone who will bring something different to the company. That’s me. “