

Acing the Case Interview

Demonstrate Your Excellent Problem-Solving Skills!

The Case Interview is all about how you solve a problem. A recruiter uses this type of interview to assess how you process information to come up with the best solution to a question, situation or challenge.

5 Steps to Success with a Case Interview

UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE

Before you can solve a problem, you need to understand it. The questions you ask during a case interview are just as important as the solution you come up with. Ask questions that will help clarify the problem or challenge and show your thought process to the recruiter.

IDENTIFY THE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS

What are the facts that you will base your solution on? The answers to questions you ask will help you discover the underlying assumptions of the problem. Let the recruiter know what you believe are the facts of the situation.

SUMMARIZE KEY ISSUES AND FINDINGS

Once you think you have all the information you need, you will want to provide a summary to the recruiter of what you believe are the key elements that are causing the problem and need to be addressed.

STATE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Your recommendations to solving a problem in a case interview may offer one solution or more depending on what issues need to be addressed and whether or not you feel there is more than one viable solution. Be sure to explain the pro's and con's for pursuing each recommendation, if offering more than one solution.

OUTLINE NEXT STEPS AND EXPECTED RESULTS/IMPACTS

Providing the recruiter with some concrete initial next steps would demonstrate your ability to not only solve the problem but put your recommendations into action. Finally, be sure to let the recruiter know how your recommendations and suggested actions will solve the problem.

(Recommended approach from Deloitte, LLP)

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Take notes during the case interview.
- Be sure you understand the issue before attempting to offer solutions.
- Take your time. Listen to answers you are given and reflect on the information.
- Express your thoughts logically.
- Be sure the recruiter understands your thought process and how you came to your solution(s).