

**Prepping for the Foundations Summit Interview\***  
**(and every professional interview after that)**

“Usually, the interviewers don’t know what Rollins is because it’s such a small school, so I start off describing the benefits of Rollins’ liberal arts ethos before getting into my specific degrees. When I get specific questions on my degrees in interviews, I take the time to explain how my Rollins classes made me passionate about \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States...

One big thing I harp on is the soft skills, so I highlight the fact that I had to do at least one presentation in every single class, but usually more than that. This helps me explain why a Rollins alum is a better choice than a candidate from a big school like UF or UCLA...

With my rFLA coursework specifically, I have evidence in the form of tangible reports and projects that I’ve learned about pressing topics and developed desirable skills that candidates from big schools would never have even been given the opportunity to explore...

If a Rollins student sits down and crafts their story for an interview just like they would for an essay, it’s very easy to get a company to show interest. Interview prep including STAR story prep and question prep is the most important thing for getting a job. I studied harder for my Google interviews than any test or essay I had for Rollins. You have to put in the work and get creative!”

-[Haley Freedman](#), Rollins Alum and Global Product Lead at Google, NYC

**So.....Let’s Practice!!**

**QUESTION #1:**

**“Tell me about yourself.”** (TRANSLATION: What have you done that has set you up to succeed your future career?)

In a succinct, confident (not arrogant), and personable manner, tell the interviewer who you are, what skills/talents you bring to the table, and what you are looking for. It’s important to have your intro memorized to the point where it can roll off your tongue in a way that sounds *natural*.

To get to this point, it’s often useful to start with a clunky template like this one. Write in your answers and practice reading it aloud until you can say it easily without the script:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m a junior/senior  
majoring in \_\_\_\_\_ and minoring in  
\_\_\_\_\_.

In addition to these achievements, I also designed my general education coursework around the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ (insert a common theme you see in your rFLAs like....social justice, identity, critical thinking about wicked problems, etc.)

In addition to my academic coursework, I’m also involved in [insert extracurricular activities, internships, sports etc].

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I’m excited to have the opportunity to talk with you today about my experience at Rollins and, more specifically, my neighborhood classes and capstone course.

QUESTION #2:

“Tell me about your capstone course.” (TRANSLATION: How has this course—content learned, skills developed—changed you for the better?)

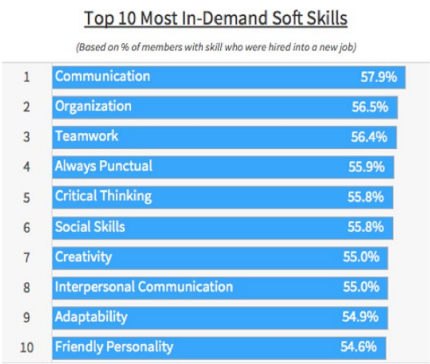
No matter how you might have felt about your rFLA coursework, do not complain or critique the program/course/instructor/college when asked a question like this on an interview. “Complain-y” interview behavior signals to the employer that you might be more of a problem than a solution for their organization.

Rather, connect specific skills/content that you learned in this course to your future life and career—pick a specific industry or job and make a clear connection between the course and that example).

Unsure what skills to focus on? Choose from the programs learning outcomes:

- 1. **Information Literacy** (the ability to find, evaluate, and use information to achieve a purpose)
- 2. **Critical Thinking** (exploring issues/problems fully before making a judgement/claim)
- 3. **Written Communication** (writing effectively in different situations that may call for different audiences and using various genres, styles, and mediums)

And/Or choose from the following list.



Unsure how to be specific in your description of how you developed those skills? Use the following template. Write out your answers and practice reading them aloud until you no longer need the script.



And remember, do not think of new details as you answer. Say what you had planned for and end.

Write out your answer here and practice reading it aloud until you no longer need the script:

### QUESTION #3:

**"Tell me about the project you're presenting today."** (TRANSLATION: How did your rFLA capstone (and maybe also other rFLA courses) inspire it, how does it connect to another aspect of your life/education, why does it matter in the "real" world?)

Unsure how to answer this? Map out these connections in specific terms. Again, write it down, practice reading it aloud until you don't need the script anymore:

CAPSTONE (and other rFLAs) + Other aspect of life/education + Real world beyond campus

Write your answer here:

#### QUESTION #4:

“For your general education here at Rollins, you've taken a series of rFLA courses rooted in different disciplinary ways of knowing the world and unpacking/solving problems—sciences, social sciences, expressive arts, and humanities. You're about to complete your final course in the sequence, an interdisciplinary capstone. Why is an interdisciplinary liberal arts education important for 21<sup>st</sup>-century global citizenship?” (TRANSLATION: What sets a Liberal Arts grad apart? How can you solve problems/make my life easier/innovate in ways that will push my company/organization/etc ahead?)

Unsure how to begin? Choose a real world problem—perhaps the problem at the center of your rFLA 300 course, or perhaps a “real world” problem from an industry you'd like to enter—and show how multiple disciplinary perspectives are needed to understand and/or solve that problem.

SPECIFIC PROBLEM



DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE (how would a scientist see this problem? How would an artist see it differently? How do those two view complement one another?)



GREATER UNDERSTANDING/SOLUTION?

Write your answer out here and then practice reading it aloud until you don't need the script anymore:

\*Many thanks to Dr. Jana Mathews for sharing these prep materials with us.